

هكذا من الأصل

Russian parliament moves to limit Yeltsin's powers

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's conservative parliament passed a law on Friday intended to impose tough restraints on President Boris Yeltsin's freedom to appoint his government. But Mr. Yeltsin appeared strongly placed to torpedo the law in his fight to retain special emergency powers. Key articles can take effect only if the Congress of People's Deputies, the country's highest legislature, approves constitutional amendments when it meets on December 1. These changes would demand a two-thirds majority — something Yeltsin's opponents are far from sure of achieving. Parliament voted by 137 votes to 13 in favour of a new law on government that makes Yeltsin's appointment of a prime minister subject to approval by both congress and the sitting parliament. Key ministers including the finance, economics, defence and security ministers would have to be endorsed by parliament. Mr. Yeltsin is pressing for congress to extend special powers he has enjoyed over the last year to appoint government members directly, without parliamentary approval. Conservative opponents hope to use the congress session to strip him of those powers and remove key ministers.

Israeli soldiers kill one Palestinian, wound 2

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli troops Friday shot to death a Palestinian teenager after their patrol was stoned in the town of Hebron in the occupied West Bank, Israeli army said. Also Friday, Palestinian reporters said that a 55-year-old woman was shot in the chest when the army raided her home seeking her son, who was wanted for suspected anti-Israel activities. The son, Kher Edin, 21, was not in the house, they said. The woman was identified as Fayza Nur Edin, a resident of the Farra Valley near the town of Tamoun in the West Bank. She was reported in serious condition at Jerusalem's Mukassed Hospital. Another son, Nur Edin, 21, was treated for a minor gunshot wound in the back sustained in the raid, the Palestinian reports said. The Israeli army said it had no information on the incident but was checking. In the occupied Gaza Strip, a curfew remained on the town of Khan Yunis, where 19 Palestinians and four border policemen were wounded in stone-throwing clashes on Thursday, Palestinian reports said. The riots were sparked by the deaths of three Palestinians during clashes Wednesday with the army. The youth killed in Hebron was identified by the army as Iyad Musk. 17

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Jordan celebrates King's birthday

General amnesty proclaimed as a unifying, nation-building move

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein issued the first general pardon in 10 years Thursday, granting general amnesty to prisoners and detainees two days before he celebrates his 57th birthday.

The amnesty will set free members of two Islamist political organisations as well as left-wing political activists who have been charged or convicted of security-related crimes.

Convicts charged or found guilty of murder, robberies, rape, drug trafficking and spying were not included in Thursday's amnesty. Minister of Justice Youssef Mubaidin announced.

The King, who has a history of pardoning political opponents, authorised Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to oversee the release of some 140 prisoners and detainees.

In a letter to Sharif Zeid, the King announced the general amnesty and expressed confidence in the competence of the judicial system and the government. In the letter, he also expressed full confidence in the Jordanian people and heralded their judgement, saying he was proud that they were able to differentiate between democratic freedoms and attempts to exploit them.

He said the pardoning of the prisoners arose, in part, from the values of tolerance and patience taught in the Koran. Those who

had "gotten off the track" and attempted to exploit freedom would be pardoned and given another chance, said the King in his letter to the prime minister.

The Royal announcement of the amnesty also carried with it a warning to future subversive elements. Anyone wishing to threaten democracy, "or exploit freedom with the aim of subverting it," would be stopped, said the King.

The general amnesty came only two days after a landmark court case against two Lower House of Parliament deputies came to a stunning close. Accused of membership in an illegal organisation, Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami (Vanguards of the Islamic Youth), deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash were sentenced to 20 years with hard labour for plotting to overthrow the monarchy.

The case had been given international attention and was marked by allegations of questionable testimony and the resignation of defence lawyers.

Political observers say that evidence presented in the case against Mr. Shbeilat and Mr. Qarrash was not sufficient.

The two Islamist deputies are not the only people affected by the general amnesty. Members of the militant Islamic group, Mohammad's Army, as well as members of the Muslim Brotherhood's Palestinian sister group Hamas as well as members of the left-wing Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP),

are expected to be among the detainees and prisoners released.

The King gave pardons to political opponents on several occasions during his 40-year reign in an attempt to bring them "back into the fold of society," said one political observer.

Legally, the general pardon makes "null and void" the "punishments and the accusations" made against deputies Shbeilat and Qarrash and the two merchants who were also sentenced in the Al Nafeer Al Islami trial, said Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoul in a statement.

Thus, the two deputies will continue to serve as parliamentarians. Parliament is currently in recess but is scheduled to reconvene on Dec. 1.

The King expressed confidence in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government as well as the people to carry out the demands and obligations that the building of a democratic society required. He also called on citizens to play a role in safeguarding the democratic process.

He expressed hope that those who had been "derailed" would be brought back into the fold of the mainstream so that "no one in our family remains outside the national circle."

The government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker held a special Cabinet meeting Thursday night and gave the Cabinet's seal to the Royal Decree, which is known as the Draft Law on Amnesty of 1992. The

draft law is expected to come into effect Sunday when it is published in the official gazette.

The prime minister hailed the Royal Decree as an ideal approach to further paving the road towards democracy. In a reply to the King's letter, the prime minister praised the King for his humanitarian and noble approach and said the decree will "bring joy to hearts of many Jordanians." The King's decision was characteristic of the King's tolerant nature which set an example for leaders everywhere, said the prime minister.

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi said the amnesty reflected the King's character, which encompasses the ability to forgive, have mercy, be tolerant.

Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the speaker of the Lower House and a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, praised the King's decision and said the move would bring Jordanians "closer together."

The people that the King has pardoned in the past were mostly political opponents who had called for the downfall of the monarchy. These opponents were frequently militant Islamists and leftist political activists. On one occasion, however, the King pardoned a former major-general who has involved in a failed military coup attempt to overthrow him in the late 1950's.

Political analysts say the King's

(Continued on page 3)



Happy Birthday

YOUR MAJESTY
and many, many
returns

Eng. Sabri Farah and family



" YOU GIVE BUT LITTLE WHEN
YOU GIVE OF YOUR
POSSESSIONS , IT IS WHEN
YOU GIVE OF YOURSELF THAT
YOU TRULY GIVE. "

(GIBRAN KHALIL GIBRAN)

YOUR MAJESTY ,

YOU HAVE SOLEMNLY GIVEN YOUR
SELF TO YOUR PEOPLE.
TO RECIPROCATATE YOUR DEVOTION , IN
THIS PRECIOUS OCCASION , WE THE
PEOPLE ASK GOD , THE OMNISCIANT AND
OMNIPOTENT , TO BLESS YOUR SAGACIOUS
WISDOM , TO PROTECT YOUR SERENITY
AND TO GRANT YOU ETERNAL BLISS .

ABDEL-ELAH AND ALI SAID MAHAS



ARAB BANK

Presents its best wishes
To
His Majesty
on his birthday



Up to 40 feared dead in Somali food shootout

NAIROBI (R) — Up to 40 people may have been killed in a shootout between guards and gunmen over a convoy of relief food in Somalia, relief sources said Friday.

They said four men guarding the convoy were known to have been killed when gunmen attacked it on the outskirts of Baidoa, some 250 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu. Five people were wounded.

"Unconfirmed reports say up to 40 people from both sides may have been killed," said a spokeswoman for the U.S. agency Care, which was transporting the food to Baidoa.

If confirmed, it would be the most serious attack on an international operation to distribute relief for 4.5 million people caught in the world's worst famine for decades.

The operation has been dogged by lawlessness and banditry by clan gunmen vying for control over Somalia since they toppled President Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991.

The convoy was carrying 250 tonnes of wheat to Baidoa, known as the "city of death" to aid workers because of a daily death toll of up to 400 starving people.

Seven trucks went back to Mogadishu, one reached Baidoa and eight were hijacked, the Care spokeswoman said.

Aid workers said there was speculation that the convoy was attacked to supply gunmen fighting a clan war in southern Somalia for the past four weeks.

Baidoa is nominally under the control of warlord Mohammad Farah Aided, whose wing of the United Somali Congress (USC) claims control of two-thirds of southern Somalia.

His gunmen have been blamed for a string of looting attacks since the relief operation began in the middle of this year.

Aid workers say they are routinely intimidated and threatened by gangs of armed men who cruise the towns and roads of Somalia in heavily armed battle wagons known as technicals.

Baidoa, a remote tumble-down town where some 150,000 people depend upon food handouts, had been less lawless of late since Mr. Aided despatched large numbers of gunmen to southern Somalia after a rival captured his headquarters at Bardere.

But aid workers said the battle wagons began returning to Baidoa in the middle of this week, apparently because they could not get enough food or money in the Bardere region.

Bardere was captured by Mr. Siad Barre's son-in-law, Siad Hersi Morgan, last month and Mr. Aided vowed to retake it irrespective of the large number of famine victims camped in the town.

Aid workers say he has yet to mount an attack on Bardere and believe he may be trying to consolidate his forces along a line from the southern port of Kisumu to Bardere to prepare for an eventual attempt to regain control of the region.



Smoke billows from the town of Hani in south east Turkey after Kurdish rebels launched a revenge attack killing 19 people (AFP photo)

Iraq blasts regional meeting on Kurds

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday a meeting among the foreign ministers on Turkey, Syria and Iran on the Kurdish question proves that the search for a Kurdish homeland was a source of worry not only for Baghdad.

"The call for this meeting means that the fire sparked in northern areas of our country started burning their fingers," said the ruling Baath Party's Al Thawra newspaper.

The commentary was the first Iraqi reaction to the 2-day meeting opening Saturday in Ankara. The Arabic language newspaper reflects the government's thinking and policy.

The commentary blasted Turkey for inviting Saudi Arabia to the meeting.

"We understand that Turkey has invited Syria and Iran, but why has Turkey involved Saudi Arabia? It means that Saudi Arabia is backing the rebels in northern Iraq and even supporting them with weapons and money."

"If that meeting happens, it means that the same forces that launched the war against Iraq are continuing to plan a new plot against Iraq and its unity," it said.

Saudi Arabia has not confirmed it would attend.

Turkey, Syria and Iran have sizable Kurdish communities and they fear that the Iraqi Kurds' quest for self-rule would spread among Kurds living elsewhere.

"The war waged by the Turkish army against Turkish Kurds and their pursuit inside Iraqi borders means that the fire of the issue they wanted to bury Iraq which has become a source of danger to them," Al Thawra said.

It said it would not be possible for those meeting in Ankara to confine the Kurdish issue to Iraqi frontiers.

Iraqi Kurds have established a de-facto state in the north. But some tribes among them appear to be reluctant to go for all out independence, fearing they will be dominated by other powerful tribes.

The Kurds, who trace their history to the dawn of civilisation in ancient Mesopotamia thousands of years before Christ, are known for their long struggle.

The region's 20 million Kurds, an Indo-European race, are spread around five states-10 million in Turkey, 5.5 million in Iran, 3.5 million in Iraq, with small enclaves in Syria and the Soviet Union.

They share a common language, based on Iran's Farsi tongue, and are overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim.

Turkey is host to Western planes that patrol northern Iraq, where a safe haven was established in 1991 to allow the return of some two million Kurds who fled to Turkey and Iran after Iraqi forces crushed a post-Gulf war rebellion.

In the last month, Turkish forces, in liaison with Iraqi Kurdish fighters, have driven separatist Turkish Kurds from the mountainous frontier region that served as a launching area for attacks on southeast Turkey.

In Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said Turkey attached great importance to the unity of Iraq and "its disintegration will lead to a dangerous outcome" in the region.

"We are definitely against the formation of an independent state in northern Iraq," he was quoted by Anatolian News Agency as telling parliament Friday.

Iraqi opposition leaders meeting in the north last month endorsed the Kurds' right to "self-determination within a united and democratic Iraq" and said they had discussed the formation of a constitutional federal union to ensure ethnic coexistence.

The Iraqi Kurds, who held elections in May, have already set up a regional government in Irbil and the Kurdish parliament resolved on Oct. 4 to establish a federation state.

"There cannot be a fair accommodation to the problem and we cannot agree to the unilateral (Kurdish) declaration of a federal government in northern Iraq," Mr. Cetin said.

The Turkish parliament voted Wednesday to extend emergency rule in the southeast for another four months to help quell the eight-year-old Kurdish rebellion.

The extension was passed by 294 votes to 91, Anatolian said.

Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin said before the vote it could be the last such extension if parliament passes a new draft law giving more powers to local governors.

Turkey declared emergency rule in the southeast in 1987 after the lifting of the last stage of nationwide martial law imposed after a 1980 coup.

"Although important steps have been taken in eliminating violence, we see that conditions for carrying on with the state of emergency still exist," Mr. Sezgin said.

U.S. Senate panel probes into Bush administration role in Iraq loans

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate panel is investigating whether the Bush administration deliberately botched the prosecution of a case involving massive loans to Iraq in order to help the Iraqis or to learn more about their nuclear programme, the committee's chairman said.

The Senate Intelligence Committee wants to question eight Justice Department officials — four of whom have already decided to retain lawyers to represent them at the interviews, said Sen. David Boren.

The panel wants to ask the officials — including three Atlanta prosecutors — why they failed to follow intelligence leads in the case of the \$5.5 billion in loans to Iraq by an Atlanta branch of an Italian government bank, Sen. Boren said in briefing reporters about the status of the five-week probe.

Sen. Boren, traditionally a strong advocate of the Central Intelligence Agency, said his committee's investigation already concluded that the CIA had done "a very sloppy job of retrieving information" from its own files in the case.

Now, he said, the panel wants to know whether the sloppiness was intentional. "The worse case would be a decision by someone in our government" that efforts to help Iraq or to get information about its secret nuclear weapons programme "were considered to override the criminal prosecution of the case," Sen. Boren said.

That scenario could explain why the prosecution decided to indict the manager of the Atlanta branch of the Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro (BNL) for conducting the loan scheme on his own without the approval of his headquarters in Italy.

The bank manager, who faces 347 counts of fraud and tax evasion, has consistently claimed that not only did he have approval from his superiors, but that the Bush administration knew about the loans and approved them as part of its support for Iraq until the Gulf war.

The CIA, under pressure from Congress, conceded last month that it had more information in its files about BNL than it had initially given the Justice Department. The agency also admitted it had misled the Atlanta judge regarding the type of information it had.

Suspensions about the administration's handling of the case have grown in recent days with the revelations in London that the British government knew of technology sales to Iraq's weapons programmes in the 1980s and approved the deals in order to learn more about the secret Iraqi projects.

Sen. Boren said committee investigators were awaiting responses from the CIA regarding what it knew about some 30 individuals and a dozen or so companies involved in trading with Iraq in the 1980s — and when it knew.

"I think it's fair for you to assume that what we're really trying to find out... is whether or not there were a whole series of companies in the United States and around the world that the intelligence community was intent on penetrating to get information," Sen. Boren said.

The panel already had found that the intelligence community was collecting information about the activities of the Atlanta branch, Sen. Boren said. He did not elaborate. Other congressional investigators have said the National Security Agency, which eavesdrops on communications around the world, had intercepted communications from BNL to Rome and Baghdad in the late 1980s.

'Iraqgate' scandal reveals spy who refused to be scapegoat

LONDON (R) — At the centre of the "Iraqgate" scandal causing serious headaches for the government of Prime Minister John Major is a man who juggled business with spying for the West and who finally refused to be a scapegoat.

Paul Henderson knew he risked torture and execution in Iraq if he was unmasked as an unpaid informant of the M16 spying agency. But he never expected to come before a British court.

His acquittal Monday along with two other executives who worked for the engineering firm Matrix Churchill on charges of breaking Britain's arms embargo on Iraq came after a former minister dramatically revealed he was aware of the sales.

The customs case that Mr. Henderson and his colleagues had deliberately deceived them collapsed.

Subsequent revelations about apparent embargo-busting have been a serious embarrassment to Mr. Major's government, already weakened by policy U-turns, crises with its own members over coalmines and European union, and a sex scandal.

The trial gave a gripping insight into the cloak-and-dagger world of Britain's M16, which spawned the fictional spy James Bond. One of its officers gave evidence from behind a screen to say just how brave Mr. Henderson had been.

"Mr. Henderson was arrested in October 1990 and accused of deceiving the very government he had risked his life to help," said Mr. Henderson's lawyer Irwin Mitchell.

A well-groomed, lean and grey-haired man in his 50s, Mr. Henderson is a far cry from the tuxedoed Bond.

But his information about Baghdad's arms procurement programme as it re-equipped as a result of the Iran-Iraq war was the kind of information vital to modern intelligence services.

Mr. Mitchell said: "It seems to have been assumed he would accept the role of scapegoat, because to reveal the truth would put his life at permanent risk from Iraqi reprisals."

Mr. Henderson said in media interviews set up by his lawyer that when he was first recruited by M16 in his 30s "there was an element of glamour."

"After a couple of years you feel there may be something worthwhile in this. The number of times they saw me, the fact that they kept coming back, I would like to think that possibly I did help my country."

His business was machine tools and his firm's lathes could make anything from kettles and colanders to shell casings.

Mrs. Henderson belonged to the secret core of businessmen who helped M16 build up a wealth of valuable technical data.

He was told never to make notes and kept his wife in the dark about his contacts with the shady world of M16, meeting controllers in bars and cafes to tell the about his visits behind the iron curtain and then to the Middle East.

"I never saw myself as a spy but I suppose that's exactly what I was doing," he said.

Egypt again charges Iran helping extremists

CAIRO (AP) — As terrorists made their 11th strike since June against foreign tourists, Egypt renewed charges that Iran is arming and financing Muslim extremists to destabilise the country.

Five Germans and two Egyptians were wounded in Thursday's attack in the heart of the southern city Qena. It occurred about the time a deputy prime minister, Youssef Waly, spoke out against Iran further south at Aswan.

"Iran aims at undermining stability in Egypt by encouraging renegades from the extremist groups and providing them money and arms," Cairo newspaper quoted Mr. Waly as saying in a speech.

In October alone, extremists mounted three attacks against foreign tourists. Gunmen in southern Egypt targeted a British tour bus and a Nile cruise boat carrying German tourists, and an attack stabbed three Russian tourists in the Mediterranean city of Port Said. A British woman in the bus died, the only fatality in the 11 attacks to date.

In Qena City, 480 kilometres south of Cairo, a prosecutor said Friday a teenage gunman arrested after the ambush on the Germans made "full confessions" about his role and how the operation was planned.

Bastawi Abdul Hamid Abul Magd, an 18-year-old student, was said to have been among four extremists who sprayed automatic weapons fire into a minibus carrying 17 Germans. The government said a traffic policeman saw the assault, chased and caught Abul Magd. He had an automatic rifle and two magazines, one empty and the other containing 29 bullets, a government statement said.

Prosecutor Mahmoud Aref told reporters Abul Magd revealed the names of his three comrades. Police were searching for them.

Mr. Aref quoted Abul Magd as saying Asfar Saeed, an extremist group leader in Qena, promised him money to join the attack.

"I was not swayed by money but by religion," Mr. Aref quoted Abul Magd as saying. "I wanted to avenge my friends in Assiut who were attacked by police."

Security forces cracked down on suspected extremists in Assiut province Monday and Tuesday after five violent incidents in which six people were wounded, including two extremists. More than 220 suspected militants were arrested.

The attacks on tourism and open extremist threats prompted Germany, Britain, the United States and Australia to advise their nationals to avoid travelling to southern trouble spots.

In his Aswan speech, Mr. Waly among the closest cabinet members to President Hosni Mubarak, said Iran "has built training camps for the extremists along Egypt's border" with a neighbouring Arab country he didn't identify.

But in a speech last August in Qena, Mr. Waly said camps were in Sudan and that Mubarak "knows the size of the present relationship between Sudan and Iran. He knows what they are planning." Sudan, Egypt's southern neighbour, denied the charges.

Last Monday, Mr. Mubarak ruled out resuming diplomatic relations with Iran and indirectly accused it of exporting revolution and encouraging extremism.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqis to rally for Saddam

BAGHDAD (R) — "Popular demonstrations" in support of President Saddam Hussein will be held all over Iraq Saturday, said a Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said. There will be mass rallies, festivals and pageants in support of Hussein which were first held 10 years ago but suspended since the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988. Al-Thawra said the revivals would be a defiant signal that Mr. Hussein's stay while his enemies "are dropping like flies" — are the defeat of President George Bush.

U.N. acts to stave off Iraq starvation

ROME (R) — The United Nations World Food Programme approved Friday over \$22 million in emergency aid for Iraqis who it said were mostly mothers and children, a otherwise risk starvation this winter. The agency said deliver 49,000 tonnes of food over four months to 1.1 million people in the northern part of the country where supplies are dangerously low. "We must act very quickly," programme director Catherine Bertini said in a statement. The winter season puts at risk more than 10 million people in Iraq, particularly in the north. The northern Kurdish areas will run out of fuel by the end of this month, the agency said. The U.N. will supply enough food to last until March, 1993. Supplies have been at extremely low levels since the U.N. imposed an embargo on the country after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Pakistanis beheaded in Saudi Arabia

DUBAI (R) — Two Pakistani men were beheaded in Saudi Arabia Friday for smuggling heroin into the kingdom, a Ministry statement said. It said one of the men was beheaded in Riyadh and the other in Jeddah. The statement said all smugglers would receive the same punishment. It asserted the kingdom's determination to fight drug traffic.

New submarine arrives in Iran port

MANAMA (R) — A submarine Tehran has bought from the United States has arrived at the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas at the Gulf, a U.S. naval source said Friday. He said the submarine, whose sale by Moscow angered Western nations, steamed into port a few days after a journey to the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. U.S. Navy officers say the submarine is able to deal with the submarine, since it was against submarines and other warship that they have trained since World War II. But it is a new, complicating factor in the strategic balance in the Gulf, through which most of the oil exports pass.

Arab League envoy arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Arab League envoy Rachid Driss has arrived in Kuwait to hear the emirate's side of its dispute with Iraq over the missing people. Kuwait says Iraq has become more than 800 Kuwaitis since the end of the Gulf war in last year. Iraq says there are no Kuwaitis left in Iraq. Mr. Driss, a former Tunisian foreign minister, will meet with Kuwaiti officials on 650 of the missing people, the newspaper Al Anha said Friday. Mr. Driss told reporters that he would visit Iraq after his visit here. He is expected to go to Baghdad late next week.

2 top Iraqi security officials killed

NICOSIA (R) — Two top Iraqi security officials were killed in a southern Iraqi port of Basra, Iraq's opposition group said. The Tehran-based Supreme Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the chief of the Basra region, Latif Kazem, and Abdul-Jabbar, commander of the army's Infantry Brigade, were killed "by Iraqi revolutionary forces." The statement, from the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) Thursday night, said when the two men were killed. In a separate attack on a convoy on the southern Risan-Kumailah Road, the rebels killed a security officer identified as Lieutenant Khalaf from the Third Corps, the statement said. Several vehicles were damaged and semi-heavy weapons seized. It added, in a third operation, a high-ranking Basra official was killed in the south, SAIRI said.

Iran reopens port after 12 years

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian port of Khorramshahr, closed since the 1980-88 war with Iraq, announced that it will start operations for the first time in 12 years. "Jetties and warships ready for loading and unloading," Governor Mahdi Jali the Iranian News Agency (IRNA). "Khorramshahr will compensate for any losses to the ships, launch their cargo," he said. He said the Shatt Al Arab Waterway, ownership of which was one of the main issues in the war, had been dredged to allow vessels drawing up to three metres to reach the port, which was Iran's biggest commercial port before 1980.

U.K. protests statement on Rushdie

LONDON (AP) — Britain delivered an official protest over a renewed demand for the execution of author Salman Rushdie. Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg said. Iranian Charge d'Affaires Gholamreza Ansari and his staff protested "in the strongest possible terms" to a statement by Supreme Court Chief Ayatollah Mortaza Mojtahade, the Office said. Mr. Mojtahade was quoted Wednesday as saying imposed on Mr. Rushdie 3 1/2 years ago when he was accused of blaspheming Islam in his book, The Satanic Verses. A British spokesman said, "the statement appears to question Iran's commitment to honour its promise not to use its internal affairs. We shall be calling on the Iranian government to reaffirm its commitment as a matter of up."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Les Aventures du Bosco.
18:35 Envoyé Spécial
19:00 News in French
19:15 Faisla sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 America's Funniest Home Videos
21:00 Perspectives
21:30 Varieties
22:00 News in English
22:30 French film: "How to Murder Your Wife"

PRAYER TIMES
04:30 Fajr
05:30 Sunrise
11:30 Dhuhr
16:10 Asr
16:41 Maghreb
18:01 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch.
Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637400.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 659322.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be light and variable. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 18/21
Aqaba 15/27
Deserts 07/13
Jordan Valley 14/28

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 68 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Alkousi 732056
Dr. Asraf Alashhab 683989
Dr. Mahmoud Hindi 898787
Dr. Youssef Samour 615648
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
Directory assistance 661111
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 661101
Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khal Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664714
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 6612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Rafan, Al-Muhsin 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marfa 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 6024020
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983223
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905650

IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (02)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:28 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:40 Brussels (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
12:50 London (RJ)
12:55 Athens (RJ)
13:00 Larnaca (RJ)
13:05 Jeddah (RJ)
13:10 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Sanas (1Y)
07:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
07:00 Doha, Damascus (EM)
07:00 Rome, Beirut (AZ)
07:00 Athens (RJ)
07:00 London (RJ)
07:00 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
07:00 Bangkok (RJ)
07:00 Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)
06:28 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:40 Brussels (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
12:50 London (RJ)
12:55 Athens (RJ)
13:00 Larnaca (RJ)
13:05 Jeddah (RJ)
13:10 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

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12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
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13:05 Jeddah (RJ)
13:10 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
13:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

MARKET PRICE
Upper/lower price in ffs
Apple (red) 20
Banana 15
Banana (Mekumest) 15
Beans 15
Cabbage 15
Carrot 15
Cauliflower 15
Cucumber (large) 15
Cucumber (small) 15
Eggplant 15
Garlic 15
Grapefruit 15
Lemon 15
Marrow (large) 15
Marrow (small) 15
Onion (green) 15
Onion (dry) 15
Orange 15
Pumpkin 15
Pepper (hot) 15
Pepper (sweet) 15
Potato 15
Tomato 15
Fig 15
Guava 15
Black Grapes 15
Green Grapes 15
Dates 15
Olive 15
Pomegranate 15
Spinach 15

هكذا من الأصل

Home News

Known Prince praises construction codes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal praised the efforts of the Ministry of Public Works and Urban Planning on the preparation of the new construction codes and the importance of such codes in developing the construction and human resources in this sector.

The prince called for promotional construction codes internationally in view of the high specifications.

During a joint meeting, members of the Higher Council of Science and Technology of the National Jordanian Construction Council, Prince Hassan said every possible effort must be made to speed up work on the remaining codes which are to be finalised later. He noted that the council has adopted a methodology where it will gradually put the approved codes into action.

Saudi Tamimi talks of improvement in Islamic affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Tamimi said the ministry was keen to improve the knowledge of its religious fields through courses.

The minister stressed the important role of preachers and imams, describing them as "carriers of the message of Islam."

He said mosque forums have sanctity and these preachers and imams should respect this sanctity by addressing people in an objective and balanced manner.

Mr. Tamimi stressed the need for preachers to be brief in their sermons and to tackle issues that can only be beneficial to the society.

King appoints 2 members to the Upper House



Ibrahim Ayyoub and Abdul Majeed Shoman founded the Arab Bank.

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree was issued Thursday appointing Abdul Majid Shouman and Ibrahim Ayyoub as members of the Upper House of Parliament, to succeed Khalil Al Salem and Mohammad Kamal who both passed away this year. The appointment takes effect as of Nov. 16.

Mr. Shouman, Chairman and General Manager of the Arab Bank, studied business and finance in the United States before enrolling on an 18 month training course with Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. He then joined the Arab Bank in Jerusalem on Sept. 1936, at the age of 24.

His father, Abdul Hamid Shouman, was also a banker who

76th general federation meeting concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the meetings of the 76th session of the Council of the General Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Thursday called on the international community to lift the economic embargo imposed on Iraq since the Gulf crisis. They said that this will alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

At the conclusion of its meeting, the council also called for the release of Kuwaiti captives and detainees in Iraq and international support for the right of the Palestinian people to self determination. Participants condemned the Israeli attacks on South Lebanon and appealed to all international organisations and bodies to act against such injustices.

They stressed the importance of developing inter-Arab trade and requested the federation's general secretariat to cooperate with standing office of the commercial negotiations committee to intensify efforts to enhance economic integration, and to increase the private sector's participation.

They welcomed a proposal for setting up an Arab centre for the transfer of technology and stressed the need for stream lining Arab efforts made to set up similar centres in various Arab countries.

Participants also agreed to take part in the meetings of the heads and secretaries general of Arab

General amnesty

(Continued from page 1)

longtime political success and popularity is in part due to his ability to forgive, "rehabilitate and win over his opponents."

Some of the people pardoned by the King have later held ambassadorial, ministerial and Senate positions.

Refugee

(Continued from page 1)

another one," said Shlomo Ben Ami, head of the Israeli delegation.

"Thanks to the efforts of the host country and the co-sponsors and with the help of good will and common sense, we are now in a position of helping transform this working group into one of the driving forces for peace in the Middle East," Ben Ami said.

The United States and Russia assured Israel that Hallaj's membership in the council lapsed at the conclusion of the group's last session in 1991.

"This does not preclude my participation in future PNC session, if invited," Hallaj said.

Hallaj said the whole matter was a side issue to the talks, which focus on the plight of what the United Nations has calculated to be 2.5 million Palestinian refugees.

"I happened to become a symbol of a more profound controversy, and that involves first the right of the Palestinian people to choose their own spokespersons and representatives."

Both sides expressed their eagerness to get on with the conference, which is being attended by 38 delegations from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, the United States, Russia and Japan.

Seminar to examine education in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 46th session of the Committee on Educational Programmes targeted at Palestinian students in the occupied Arab territories, which will be held in Cairo on Nov. 22. Participants in the meeting will discuss

Rabin admits Israel provoked Hizbollah

(Continued from page 1)

Security sources said the withdrawal left 58 Israeli big guns in the zone that were brought in as part of reinforcements after rocket attacks on Israel on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Rabin said the Jewish state was resigned to a long struggle against Hizbollah fighters inside the "security zone," set up in 1985 after Israel pulled back the bulk of its troops which had invaded Lebanon in 1982.

"I don't foresee a change in the security zone. Israeli soldiers will have to cope with the hostile day and night, 365 days a year," he said after meeting northern army commanders.

Israeli tanks and artillery in the zone fired about 200 shells on Thursday after the Israeli soldier was killed and one was wounded and captured.

U.N. spokesman in Lebanon Timur Goksel said that as Israel's response to the attack was limited and reinforcements were not used it was probable Israel would stop short of a large-scale assault.

"It's a massive force they have, with tremendous firepower, but they didn't use it yesterday so one gets the feeling... that as long as the attacks don't affect Israeli

Congratulations and celebrations begin for King's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — Saturday marks His Majesty King Hussein's 57th birthday. On the occasion the King received Friday congratulatory cables from a number of Arab, Islamic and foreign leaders wishing him continued good health and happiness.

Among those sending cables were King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Algerian President Ali Kafi, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, Queen Elizabeth of England, Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma and president of the Philippines.

To mark the occasion, the various governorates and districts of Jordan have prepared plans for celebrating the occasion. Ministry of Education schools will carry out various activities including scout marches, songs, dabkeh (traditional dance), cross-country race and art exhibitions. In Baqaa camp, the youth centre will hold its 7th cultural and art week, which will be opened Saturday by Member of the Upper House of Parliament Amin Shukair. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein will attend an evening organised by Salt Welfare Society on 17 Nov. at the Palace of



Supporters of Leith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash gather outside Swaga jail to celebrate the King's announcement of a general amnesty for the Al Nafeer prisoners.

Culture.

In Aqaba the second cultural festival will be held on Nov. 26. In Zarqa the Youth Department has arranged many celebrations in various parts of the governorate.

The celebrations include a match, weightlifting activities, chess matches, sports and a national carnival organised by the Christian Youth Club.

Also in Zarqa, Al Awdah Club

is organising a free medical examination day, in which a number of doctors will treat patients free of charge. In Fabeis, the development centre will be officially opened Saturday to mark the birthday.

In Mahes, the youth centre organised an open table tennis tournament. In Madaba and Muwaqqar similar celebrations will be held at the Ministry of Education schools.

In Amman, the Education Department will organise a major celebration Saturday including an art exhibition and a cultural festival in which students will participate.

Al Sunbala establishment, in cooperation with the Public Security Department, will distribute 57,000 roses through nine centres.

On Sunday, Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh will inaugurate a major agricultural project in Rabbah, Karak. The ceremony will be attended by the United States Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison and senior government and USAID officials.

In Wadi Rum a balloon race will take place.

On Friday, King Hussein received congratulatory cables from Prime Minister Shari Zeid Ben Shaker, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, Director of the General Intelligence Department Mustafa Al Qaisi, Director of the Public Security Department Fadel Ali Fubeid, Chief Islamic Justice Nooh Sulaiman and Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan Maj. General Naim Al Khatib.

Officials discuss higher education ties between Jordan and Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — The Korean University of Hankok for foreign studies recently hosted a meeting in Korea to discuss "a comparative study of the Jordanian and Korean political and economic models."

University of Jordan president Fawzi Al Gharaibeh stressed at the meeting the need to establish channels of dialogue between peoples of the third world, particularly Jordan and Korea.

Dr. Gharaibeh presented a briefing on the development of higher education in Jordan and the Kingdom's key political role in the Middle East region. He outlined democratic changes and scopes of cooperation in higher education fields between Jordan and Korea.

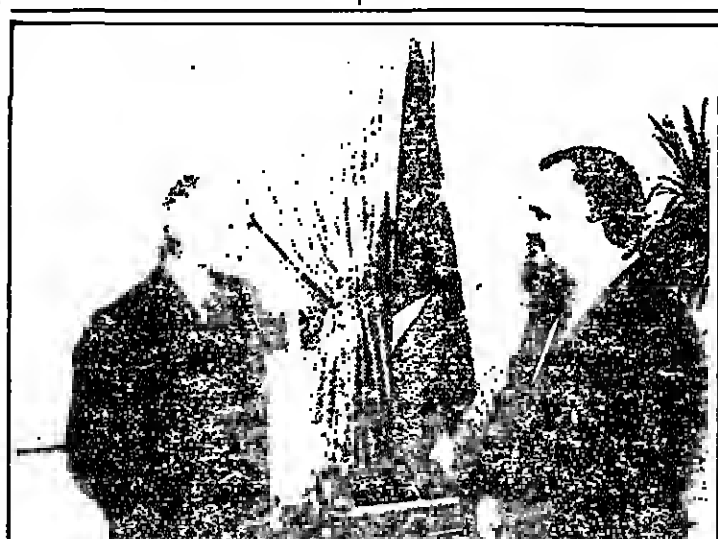
Director of the University of Jordan's strategic studies centre Mustafa Hamameh presented at the meeting a working paper in which he reviewed the development of Jordan's foreign policies and their relation to domestic political developments in view of Jordan's geographic location and natural resources, as well as the tendencies of its leadership over the past 70 years.

Dr. Ibrahim Othman of the Sociology Department at the university presented another working paper on cultural and social developments in Jordan in the light of economic and political variables.

Another paper was presented by Dr. Taleb Awad of the university's Faculty of Economics which dealt with the Kingdom's economic structure and development plans. Dr. Bashir Al Zu'bi also of the Faculty of Economics presented a paper on Jordanian economic cooperation policies in which he handled scopes of cooperation between Jordan and other countries and the prospects of launching foreign investments in the Kingdom.

The president of Hankok University delivered an address at the meeting and stressed the importance of establishing bilateral relations between the two countries in economic and political fields. The university president lauded the distinguished performance of the University of Jordan's professors and commending researches and studies conducted by the university.

Dr. Gharaibeh and the accompanying delegation also held talks with officials at the Korean university and discussed with them means of enhancing relations between the two universities.



MEDAL AWARDED TO MOROCCAN KING'S ADVISOR: AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday conferred the excellent educational medal on Dr. Abdul Hadi Abu Taleb, the advisor of King Hassan II of Morocco. Dr. Abu Taleb voiced his appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan for presenting the medal. The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi, Minister of Higher Education Dr. Awad Khleifat and the Moroccan ambassador to Jordan Mohammed Tahar Bannani.

Queen Noor to open education centre in Salt

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will open Monday in Al Salt city a special education centre for children with special needs. The centre, which cost JD 60,000 includes five fully-equipped classrooms, sports

court, dining hall and other facilities. The centre, which will accommodate 50 students, is one of nine centres in the Kingdom established to meet the needs of 6-12 year olds with special needs.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings by Raja Shkair at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Ismail Fattah, Lisa Attah and Mohammad Mohraddin at the Abdul Hameed Shouman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)
- Exhibition entitled "Brilliant stories — American narrative jewellery exhibit" at the American Centre (open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- Exhibition entitled "Melody Ambiance" by Adnan Al Sharif at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- Art exhibition by Suhair Bahash at De La Salle College.

Palestinians suspicious of Rabin settlement plans

By Colleen Siegel
Renter

"And the Israelis are seeking that it be a status in itself and open-ended."

On taking office in July, Mr. Rabin curbed new settlement activity, but allowed work to continue on 13,567 houses being built in the Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip are under military rule, East Jerusalem was annexed shortly after the 1967 war and Israel imposed civilian laws on the Golan in 1981, effectively annexing the strategic plateau overlooking Damascus and northern Israel.

The settlement curbs won Israel \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees — denied to Mr. Rabin's hardline predecessor Yitzhak Shamir who refused to halt construction — despite Palestinian and Arab calls for a total settlement freeze.

Officials in Mr. Rabin's centre-left government say building had to continue to avoid costly legal battles with contractors. But Mr. Alpher said continued building could also cost Israel: funds spent for Jewish housing in the occupied territories are to be deducted from the U.S. loan guarantees.

"The government financial rationale that they will pay large sums is not necessarily persuasive," Mr. Alpher said. During the drive of the previous Likud government, which openly planned settlement to block a land-for-peace deal with Palestinians, settlers estimated the point of no withdrawal at 200,000 Jews in the occupied lands.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said filling the units now under construction could

add 50,000 Jews to the 100,000 now among 1.75 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The settlers would be two-thirds of the way to their goal.

"This would be an achievement greater than the achievements of the settlers in the last eight years," Faisal Husseini, head of the Palestinian peace team, told Israel's Davar newspaper.

Government officials say privately that building continues to prevent settler unrest. They say a cut in incentives will deter Israelis from moving to the occupied lands but do not indicate what they will do with empty houses.

According to settlement spokesman Boh Lang, settlers have not reacted to Mr. Rabin's freeze on new building and land allocation, an end to mortgage forgiveness in many areas and other cuts in benefits.

Settlers protested government security policies after recent attacks against Jews in the territories but Mr. Lang recalled similar protests against Mr. Shamir's government.

"The people see building going on in their communities," Mr. Lang told Reuters. "Only in a year or two will they feel any slowdown."

Eran Hayet, spokesman for Israel's Peace Now movement that wanted a complete settlement freeze, thinks the settlers may be secretly pleased with Mr. Rabin's limited measures. The government will soon hold the thousands of houses now being built.

"In the future they will have the housing units done and there will be pressure to sell them," said Mr. Hayet, seeing his hope for a removal of Jewish settlements as increasingly unlikely.

Philistines weren't Philistines after all

By John Noble Wilford

NEW YORK — After all these centuries of calumny, the Philistines are finally having some good things said about them. They were not, it seems, deserving of that withering epithet: Philistine.

Archaeologists are uncovering increasing evidence that the Philistines, arch foes of the Israelites in biblical times whose name became synonymous with barbarity and boorishness, were actually the creators of fine pottery and grand architecture, clever urban planners and cosmopolitan devotees of the grape. If anything, the Israelites, at the time mostly shepherds and farmers in the hills, were the less-sophisticated and less-cultured folk.

In excavations this summer among the ruins of Ashkelon on Israel's Mediterranean coast, archaeologists from Harvard University came upon revealing remains of the Philistine city as it was on the day of its destruction by King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian army in 604 B.C. They found inscribed pottery, stone altars, buildings and rooms of handsome design and advanced construction techniques, and a wine press that belies the lingering image of the Philistines as a loutish, beer-drinking people.

The wine press, perhaps the property of King Aga, the last ruler of Ashkelon, consists of a shallow grape-treading basin with a channel directing the liquid into

a deeper collecting tank. The masonry is said by experts to be similar to the work of later Roman artisans.

"One could not imagine a finer craftsmanship than what we see in these last stages of Philistine life," Lawrence E. Stager, a Harvard archaeologist and leader of the Leon Levy Expedition at Ashkelon, said in an interview. Other excavations reinforce this new assessment of Philistine culture and extend it back to their first appearance in the Middle East, around 1175 B.C. Evidence of copper smelting in Philistine cities in Cyprus indicates a technology that anticipated Rome in this field by more than 1,000 years. At Ekron, the ruins of another Philistine city in the south of present-day Israel, archaeologists have discovered that the Philistines were making pottery with imaginative red and black motifs, including decorations with fish, birds and geometric patterns, when the early Israelites were using crude, unpainted pottery.

Two Israeli archaeologists, Trude Dothan and Moshe Dothan of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, say that from their 30 years of investigations has emerged a picture of the Philistines as great traders, master builders and one of the most civilized people of their time. The Philistines' influence in bringing

culture to the region was probably considerable.

In their book "People of the Sea," being published next month by Macmillan, the Dothans write: "As the complexity of Philistine culture has become evident, so has the vital role that the Philistines played in the cultural and political development of the region throughout the biblical period. At the same time, our search for the Philistines has shed new light on a unique period of interaction between the cultures of the Aegean and the Near East."

Indeed, scholars think the new findings may have solved the mystery of the Philistines' origins. They were among the enigmatic Sea People who arrived in the Levant in the 12th century B.C., as recorded in Egyptian accounts, and settled between the Israelite tribes to the east and the Egyptian empire to the south. They supplanted the Canaanites in cities like Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath and Gaza. But where had they come from?

Excavations at several of these Philistine cities have revealed that their red-and-black ceramics bear a striking resemblance to the styles of the Mycenaean Greeks. This was not imported pottery, because analysis shows that it was made with local clays. Also, loom weights found at Philistine sites are similar to those dug up at Mycenae and other Greek sites

by the 19th-century archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann.

Other important clues are the brick cooking hearths uncovered in the ruins of Ekron by Trude Dothan and Seymour Gitin, director of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. The hearth had not been common in Canaan, the archaeologists pointed out, but had a central place in the palaces of the Aegean world.

"More than an architectural element," the Dothans note in their book, the hearth "represented a tradition that reflected the social structure and habits of everyday life" for the Aegean peoples.

Some circumstantial evidence also raises intriguing possibilities. The Greek epics are filled with tales of heroes wandering the eastern Mediterranean in the years after the fall of Troy, usually dated at 1183 B.C. — not long before the appearance of the Philistines on the coast of Canaan. In Homer's "Odyssey," the Greeks are frequently described in places like Cyprus, Phoenicia, Egypt and Libya.

Not all the Greeks made it back home, and in some epics it is told that these refugees founded cities in the eastern Mediterranean. Mr. Stager said that plaques depicting scenes from the Odyssey have been found in the ruins of Ashkelon; they were

from the city's later Roman period, but indicated, he said, that the people "still recalled their Greek heritage hundreds of years later."

From the archaeological evidence, mainly the Greek-style pottery, Mr. Stager concluded last year in an article in Biblical Archaeological Review, "Throwing caution to the wind, I am willing to state flatly that the Sea Peoples, including the Philistines, were Mycenaean Greeks."

If some scholars have been slow to accept this interpretation it may be because of a reluctance to identify the so-called barbaric Philistines of the Bible with the elevated Greeks. "Nor has our upbringing in the classic helped," Mr. Stager said in the article. "It has probably hindered us from recognizing that the heroes of the Iliad and the Odyssey — the 'good guys' — just might be akin to the 'bad guys' — namely, the Sea People."

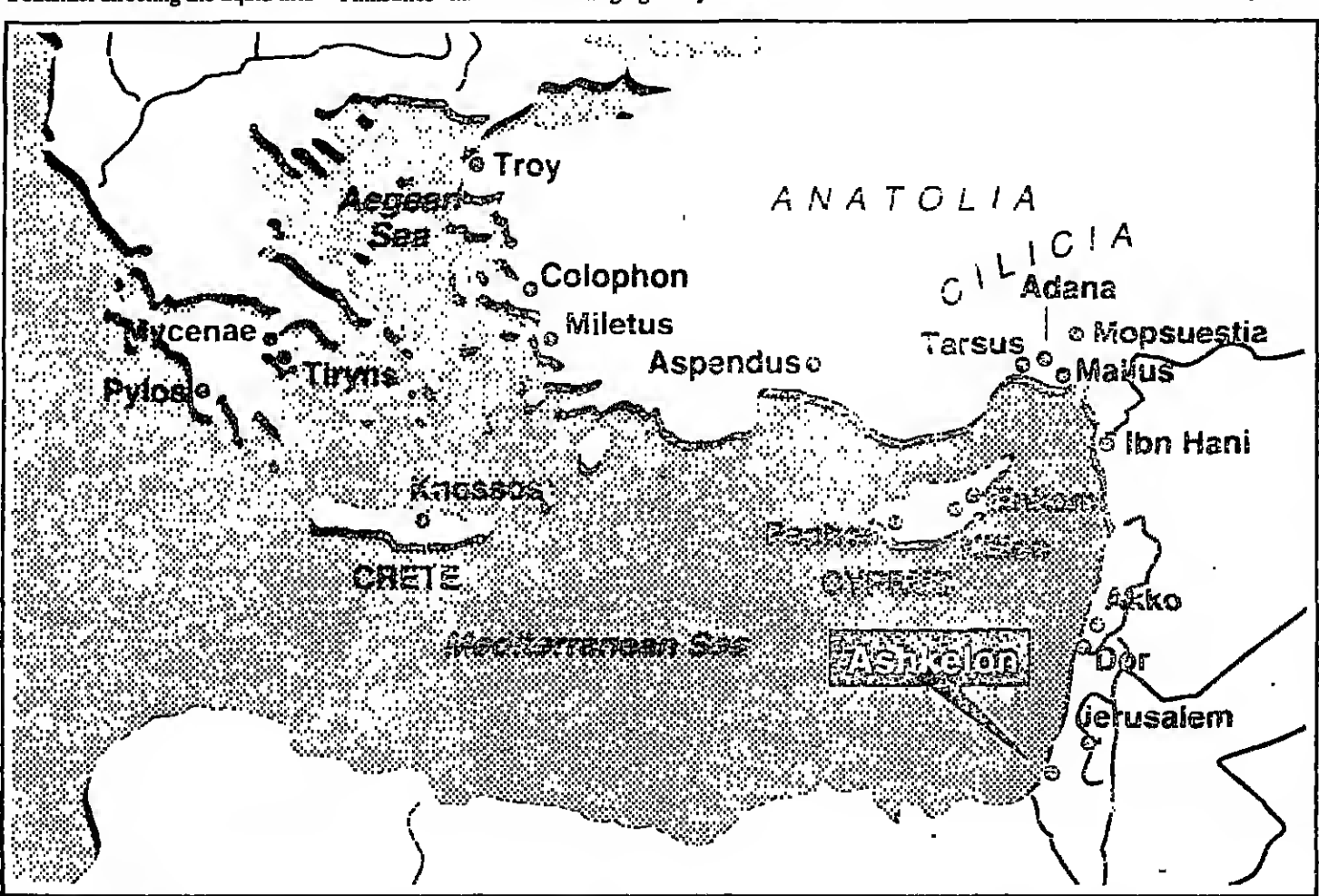
Apart from perhaps offering a solution to a mystery of ancient history, this new view of the Philistines has implications for interpreting some familiar biblical stories.

Samson and Delilah, for example. In the Bible, Delilah is a kind of Philistine. She is a woman who seduced Samson, a Jewish hero, and helped the Philistines capture him. The Bible says that Samson's strength lay in his magical locks of hair. When his hair is shorn, he is weakened and "like any man."

Mr. Stager pointed out a Greek parallel. Scylla cut her father's hair while he slept, thus removing his invincibility so that he could be captured by King Minos of Crete. For this reason, the Harvard archaeologist has suggested that the Samson story may have Greek origins through the Philistines and that Samson's tribe, Dan, might not have been Israelite originally but possibly Greek origin.

Likewise, Goliath may have been reconsidered. He was the Philistine giant who was slain with slingshot by the young David in the 10th century B.C. The Greek influence on the Philistines may have still been strong, Mr. Stager said, because the Bible describes Goliath as going into the battle wearing bronze greaves on his legs. No Canaanite or Israelite soldier wore greaves, but Greek warriors did.

This new research does not clear up the other mystery about the Philistines: their ultimate fate. After Ashkelon and Ekron were destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, King Aga and many of his subjects were sent into exile in Babylon. In 586 B.C., with the fall of Jerusalem, the Jews joined the Philistines in Babylonian exile. The Jews eventually returned to Palestine. But about the Philistines, nothing more is known — International Herald Tribune.



E. Europe economic progress masked by political woes

By Jonathan Lynn
Renter

strongest about Poland where, after a year of party-political chaos, Hanna Sochacka's new coalition government is getting to grips with the huge budget deficit.

Getting the budget deficit under control is the key to an agreement with the IMF which would unlock fresh credits from the fund and clear the way to a deal on the \$11 billion Warsaw owes commercial banks out of its \$45 million foreign debt.

Amid the political squabbles, a radical transformation of the Polish economy has quietly taken place. Half the workforce now works in the private sector, which accounts for more than one quarter of industrial output.

Czechoslovakia has also notched up successes, launching a mass privatisation scheme that has been copied widely in other reforming countries and cutting inflation close to West European levels.

Unemployment has been falling and is down to only 2.6 per cent of the workforce in the richer Czech republic, where there are even reports of shortages of skilled labour.

Hungary, which started its reforms under KKV's and has adopted a gradual approach rather than the radical shock therapy favoured in Warsaw and Prague, has also been advancing. Its image of political stability and economic progress has won it the lion's share of direct foreign investment into the region — more than \$4 billion.

But even in the three rapid reformers of Central Europe, inflation next year is likely to remain in double digits and they are beset by political problems which could hinder their progress to quick integration with Western Europe.

The coming split of Czechoslovakia may not be the velvet divorce promised by Prague politicians and a row between Slovakia and Hungary over a dam on the Danube has tarnished the region's image of stability — as have recent xenophobic statements from rightists in Hungary's main governing party.

All is not gloom in the less advanced eastern countries.

Both Bulgaria and Romania have put most of a market economy framework in place and Romania has launched a mass privatisation. But the shadow of the past looms larger here.

In Romania the Democratic National Salvation Front of President Ion Iliescu, a former communist, was the strongest party in recent elections, while in Bulgaria a curious alliance of ex-communists and ethnic Turks brought down the country's first non-communist government since World War II.

The combination of perceived communist influence and relative poverty is discouraging needed foreign investment.

But all major parties are committed to reform, even though

economist Nicolae Vacaroiu, named by Mr. Iliescu to head Romania's next government, says he favours a slower pace of change.

Bulgaria is supporting its lev currency, hit by the political crisis, with market instruments such as higher interest rates rather than communist-style controls.

In former Yugoslavia, once one of the region's brightest prospects, the successor states are going different ways.

Slovenia is likely to join the Central European fast adjusters. But others, mired in civil war, are driving their economies to the level of neighbouring Albania, whose reforming government is dependent on aid handouts.

direction of the administration appointments coming weeks. President according to a OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — him, seeks his Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's decision to honour appears that edges by the previous right-wing government to build thousands of homes for Jews on any side. This occupied land has fed Palestinian week as he has been suspicious about his aims. Palestinians, who along with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan are engaged in peace talks with Israel, fear Mr. Rabin is ensuring their hopes for a state are dashed. "It stands to reason that the settlement process definitely determines the final status," chief Palestinian negotiator Haider Haddad said. Mr. Rabin has agreed that National U.N. resolutions enshrining the principle of trading land for peace, the documents underlying all peace talks — apply to Syria. But he has refused to make the same declaration to the Palestinians. Although it says it would be some land for peace, Mr. Rabin's Labour Party is officially opposed to a Palestinian state. Instead, Mr. Rabin is promoted by a five-year period of limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Christopher Rabin captured in the 1967 secret of the Three years to self-rule, talks the reports would start on a final agreement. However, Mr. Rabin has given the indication of the permanent settlement he envisages. Palestinian change and means fear it will be little different the hope from the "autonomy" they are be an agent how negotiating. — to hope "The Palestinians are seeking ensure that everything in the autonomy" — said Joseph Alpher. — to hope the head of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv.

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Jealousy is a factor in anti-Magic opinions — Bird

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Bird would have "no problem" playing against Magic Johnson because of the AIDS virus and said "professional jealousy" is a factor in other players' opinions, the New York Post reported.

"I see it as a bad case of professional jealousy," said the former Boston Celtics star, who was in Palm Beach, Florida, for a celebrity golf tournament organized by Greg Norman. "As far as playing against (Johnson), I'd have no problem whatsoever."

Johnson announced his second retirement from the Los Angeles Lakers on Nov. 2 after Utah star Karl Malone and other players expressed fears about playing against Johnson.

Bird and Malone spent two months during the summer practicing against Johnson as teammates on the U.S. Olympic team.

"When you have a Magic Johnson or a Michael Jordan and there are other superstars not getting the press they are, the others sort of resent that," Bird said.

"The same kind of thing happens in everyday life. I think that's what's happening to Magic now. He's been on top for so long, that everybody is taking a shot at him, to cut him down a little bit. They've been waiting so many years to do it and now they're getting the opportunity to do it. It's sad."

"There's a lot of attention being focused on Magic because he's the first athlete to come out and try to play with the AIDS virus."

"I feel very sorry for him, but there's nothing you can do now."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Mourning signs with Hornets

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — One week into the NBA season, the Charlotte Hornets added their No. 1 draft pick when Alonzo Mourning ended his holdout and signed a six-year contract reportedly worth \$26.25 million. The 6-foot-10 (2.09 metre) Georgetown Centre, drafted for his strong rebounding and shot-blocking skills, said he was putting the five-month signing hiatus behind him. "That's in the past now," Mourning said. "I'm ready to get started and contribute to this team. I'll do anything I can to help Charlotte win some ball games." Mourning will suit up for Friday night's game against the Pacers. Coach Allan Briston said Mourning may start. "His presence in the middle is going to be a major factor in our team's success this season," said Briston. Team officials would not confirm reports that Mourning had agreed to a six-year deal that will pay him \$2.5 million for his rookie season. Mourning also has an escape clause after the fourth year, owner George Shinn said.

40 disqualified from NYC Marathon

NEW YORK (AP) — A total of 40 runners, including two who failed to appear at checkpoints along the course during the Nov. 1 New York City Marathon, were disqualified. Race organizers said James Sussman of Rego Park, N.Y., who recorded a time of 2 hours, 34 minutes, 27 seconds, and Jean-Luc Hausman of Belgium, who clocked 2:35:13, were disqualified. Neither will be allowed to run in the marathon again. Thirty-three runners were disqualified for running with someone else's number, four for allowing their runner number to be photocopied and one for shoplifting at the Marathon Expo.

WBC orders 4 more title fights

CANCUN, Mexico (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) ordered four world champions Thursday to defend their crowns or face being stripped of their titles. In the penultimate session of its annual convention in the Mexican resort of Cancun, the WBC said its middleweight, welterweight, featherweight and flyweight champions should arrange fights with their challengers within 60 days. The ruling affected middleweight champion Julian Jackson of the Virgin Islands, who must fight challenger Sumbul Kalamalai of Italy; welterweight James McGirt of the United States, who must fight Genaro Leon of Mexico; Britain's featherweight Paul Hopkins, who must face the winner of a Nov. 25 bout in Mexico City between Mexicans Goyo Vargas and Alejandro Gonzalez; and Russia's flyweight Yuri Arachakov, who must defend his title against Isaias Zamudio of the United States. Earlier this week the WBC also said the winner of Friday's Las Vegas fight between heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield and Riddick Bowe of the United States must agree by Jan. 2 to fight British challenger Lennox Lewis or forfeit the WBC title. The WBC also announced it was incorporating South African boxers into its rankings for the first time in 17 years following its decision to provisionally lift its boycott against South Africa over apartheid.

Milan beats deportivo 1-0 in friendly

LA CORUNA, Spain (AP) — Daniele Massaro scored in the 75th minute to push Italian League leaders Milan to a 1-0 victory over Spain's No. 1 team La Coruna Deportivo in an exhibition game. Massaro deflected in the winning goal from just in front of the net off a well directed crossing pass to deflate a sellout crowd of 35,000 that came looking for the powerful Italian side to be upset. Moments before the winning goal, Fernando "Nando" Martinez had Deportivo's best scoring chance in the game when he fired a blistering shot from 12 metres that Milan's keeper managed to handle. The game was a moral victory for Deportivo, which is the surprising league leader in its second season in Spain's competitive first division which is traditionally dominated by Barcelona and Real Madrid.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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WHAT'S 100 POINTS?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 6
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ K 3
♣ A 5

EAST
♠ J 9 4 2
♥ 10 5 3
♦ K Q 9
♣ 10 9 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A 7
♥ A J 10 8 5
♦ A Q J
♣ A J 3

The bidding:
2NT Pass 3♦ Pass
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
Pass Dbl Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

W.S.Gilbert knew all about "greedy men whom love of gain allured." West surely fitted into that category. The double of six hearts was likely to earn a measly 100 points if declarer held the ace of hearts, by no means a certainty, and risked painting a picture of the opposing distribution that would enable South to land the slam.

North-South were employing a 20-22 point range for opening bids

of two no trump. North's three clubs was Stayman, probing for a 4-4 major fit. When one was located, North wasted no time in getting to the desired contract.

Left alone, declarer would surely have gone down. With nine trumps missing the king and queen, the percentage play is to take two finesses. That has a 76 percent chance of success, whereas hanging out the ace in the hope of dropping a singleton honor or, failing that, getting a 3-2 break is 10 percent worse. Both lines were doomed to failure.

Warned by the double that West surely held both missing honors, declarer had to strive for an endplay. That involved taking considerable risks, but any chance was better than none at all.

Declarer won the ace of spades, crossed to the king and ruffed a spade. After cashing three rounds of clubs, declarer ruffed another spade in hand, then cashed the king and ace of diamonds. A diamond was ruffed on the table and a trump was led. When East followed low, declarer finessed the ten. West won, but now was down to K 9 of trumps and bad to lead away from the king into declarer's A J tenace. Instead of gaining 100 points, West's double resulted in a net loss of 1,760!

Graf downs Martinez; Zvereva upsets Pierce in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany easily handled fifth-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-1, 6-1 Thursday in the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina faced wild-card entry Lisa Raymond of Wayne, Pa., the 1992 NCAA singles champion, in a quarterfinal.

In second-round matches Thursday, Natalia Zvereva of Belarus upset sixth-seeded Mary Pierce of France 7-6 (7-4), 6-2; and eighth-seeded Lori McNeil survived a strong comeback by

Gigi Fernandez to win 6-2, 7-5. McNeil will play fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati and Zvereva will play third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the quarterfinals.

Graf, the world's second-ranked player, kept Martinez, ranked No. 8, under pressure with ground strokes to the corners and baseline. Both players played mostly from back court with heavily undercut backhands.

"I thought it was going to be a lot tougher," Graf said after the 46-minute match. "She's not somebody to put away that quickly."

Martinez, who has lost all seven of her matches against Graf, said Graf was serving well, hitting a slice backhand and moving quickly.

"I didn't play that bad, but she hit the ball too early and I couldn't run to it," Martinez said.

In the second-round matches, Fernandez rallied from 0-3 in the second set. The sixth game reached eight times as both players made a series of lunging recovery shots and Fernandez ended it with a backhand service return down the line.

Service held until the 11th

game, when a sharply angled volley put McNeil ahead 6-5. Fernandez then returned a serve with a backhand into the net in the 12th game to give McNeil the win.

Pierce won three straight games to go ahead 6-5 in the first set. Zvereva held service, then won the tie-breaker from 4-4 with three straight points.

In the second set, Zvereva won four straight games from 1-1 and lost the seventh after leading 30-15. She won the final game at love on Pierce's service, with Pierce hitting the final drive down the right side into the net.

Lendl, McEnroe lose in EC Championship

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP) — Five-time winner Ivan Lendl was soundly beaten by Australian Mark Woodforde 6-4, 6-2 in the biggest upset yet of the European Community Cup in tennis.

McEnroe also failed to reach the quarterfinals of the \$1.1 million event, losing in straight sets to Czechoslovak Petr Korda, seeded third, 6-4, 6-4.

Top-seeded Jim Courier cruised along, sweeping past Spain's Javier Sanchez 6-3, 6-3. France's Guy Forget, seeded eighth, had just as little trouble with Argentina's Gabriel Markus 6-4, 6-3.

In addition to fourth-seeded Lendl, Spain's Carlos Costa also lost, falling victim to German Michael Stich in straight sets 6-4, 6-4.

Sweden's Magnus Larsson reached the quarterfinals in less glorious fashion, struggling for three sets before edging Dutch qualifier Tom Nijssen, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-1). Larsson will play Woodforde. McEnroe kept Korda in check during the first eight games but served two double faults, losing serve and the first set. From then on, Korda's agility and quickness dominated proceedings.

Woodforde, ranked 61st in the world, relied on his tough serve to score his first win over Lendl in five attempts.

"With him playing so well and with me not on — that was the problem," Lendl said afterwards. He complained he was still stiff during Thursday's match after playing late the evening before.

During its 11-year history, Lendl has been by far the dominating force at the ECC, last winning the diamond-and-gold racket in 1989.

Lendl served five double faults and rarely threatened the accurate serve of Woodforde. The American had not played in two weeks after winning an ATP event in Tokyo.

Courier, the world's No. 1, has played two events during that stretch, but has struggled before finding his best form again here. He was never threatened by Sanchez in a match that took barely more than an hour.

"This is an important week," he said, reflecting on early losses in Stockholm and Paris. "It is important to do well here going into Frankfurt," where the ATP World Championships start Monday.

Stich, who will play second-seeded Michael Chang in the quarterfinal, is steadily improving here after saving three match points in the first round against another Spaniard, Sergi Bruguera.

Costa, a clay-court specialist was seeded seventh here.

"I still haven't hit my stride, but there is some progress," Stich said.

Larsson meanwhile needed to win two tiebreakers to advance in the quarterfinals after losing the first set 4-6 to Nijssen, a first-round winner over No. 5 seed Maliva Washington.

Dutchman Richard Krajicek, No. 6 seed here, reached the quarterfinal late Wednesday and will now play Korda.

Cherkasov beats Wheaton; Medvedev advances in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's Andrei Cherkasov has moved closer to winning his third straight Kremlin Cup by ousting a frustrated David Wheaton 6-4, 7-6 in the \$348,000 tennis tournament at Olympic Stadium.

The victory for Cherkasov, 22, eliminated the last U.S. player in the singles draw. Other winners reaching the quarterfinals included 18-year-old sensation Andrei Medvedev and Switzerland's war-speed server Marc Rosset.

"Today was a very tough match," Cherkasov said, admitting to reporters that his confidence was low after losing in the

first round of five recent events. "But I feel more confident now than I did two hours ago."

The compact Cherkasov, seeded fourth in the event, kept steady pressure on his 23-year-old American foe who has dropped in world rankings since last year from 12th to 42nd.

Cherkasov, ranked 30th, hit devastating top-spin lobs and passing shots that repeatedly thwarted Wheaton at the net. As Wheaton notched up his game, Cherkasov played ever harder.

The Russian broke Wheaton's serve to take the first set 6-4. The players stayed even in the second set, each unable to break the

other's serve, until the score was 4-4. In a critical test, Wheaton squandered a triple break point, and Cherkasov went up 5-4.

In the next game, Wheaton saved three match points and came back to tie the score at 5-5. Each held serve once more to trigger a tie-breaker, but something in Wheaton had snapped. Cherkasov won the tiebreaker 7-2.

Cherkasov's quarterfinal opponent is sixth-seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline, who knocked out American Richey Reneberg Wednesday.

Earlier, the third-seeded Medvedev outpaced South Africa's

Christo Van-Rensburg, 7-6 (7-3), 6-6, 6-2, to earn a quarterfinal berth.

The baby-faced Medvedev, ranked 25th in the world, lost concentration after winning the first set and allowed his 30-year-old opponent to bulldoze him in the second. But the Ukrainian recovered in the final set, overwhelming Van-Rensburg with a series of baseline blasts and surgical strikes at net.

Medvedev next faces Germany's Carl Uwe Steeb.

Rosset, the Olympic gold medalist, squeaked out a victory over Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

Baseball owners reject Giants move to Florida

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (R) — The Giants look to be staying in San Francisco after all as Major League Baseball owners rejected a proposed \$115 million sale of the National League team to the Tampa-St. Petersburg area of Florida.

National League owners withheld approval on Giants' owner Bob Lurie's agreement to sell the team to a Tampa Bay investor group by voting against the sale

9-4. The giants were excluded from the balloting.

Ten votes were needed for the National League owners to approve the move. The proposal did not reach the 14 American League owners, who could have approved the sale by a majority vote.

A San Francisco-based group recently met with National League President Bill White and made an offer to buy the team for

\$100 million and keep it in San Francisco, where the Giants have resided since they left New York 35 years ago.

"The National League disapproved the relocation of the San Francisco Giants to Tampa/St. Petersburg. In doing so the league reaffirmed baseball's long established preference for the stability of its franchises," Bud Selig, owner of the Milwaukee Brewers and chairman of the

baseball's eight-member Executive Council, told a news conference.

Selig would not reveal who cast the dissenting votes.

Lurie has been moved to sell over frustration at the refusal of San Francisco voters to approve funding for a new stadium to replace ageing and windy Candlestick Park beside San Francisco Bay.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Faint

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Delays and confusion are apt to be a large part of today's picture for you unless you make a double effort to have an exact understanding on every point and tell others what they should do to make your relationship more productive.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A very good day for getting at those private matters that are important to you and putting some extra effort in trying to solve them satisfactorily.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Consider what you can do that will delight your friends and acquaintances and by doing what your instincts tell you and you will have success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The outside world and what you wish to do or have agreed to do there can be done with the maximum of beneficial results and much acclaim.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You know how you want to open new doors of achievement and now you have a good day and evening to get into the details to make these dreams come true.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about what you do to improve your practical affairs and where you are at a loss for a good course of action, consult with an astute businessperson.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Seek out a partner with whom you want more dealings of nature and discuss what you can do to make this ambition realized.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have to make your surroundings accord with how you feel be most comfortable and operate effectively in your SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A very good time to put your efforts up ever gift that you have want to utilize more to your tag.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Its your concentrate upon matters own residence and that you desires and especially in a long property matters.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Desiring to share social company aid you with routine, attending affairs can proceed.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to take a g at your property and pome see just what you can decide, carry through.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take a good look at y life and where you are p headed and just what you bring yourself more of th you desire.

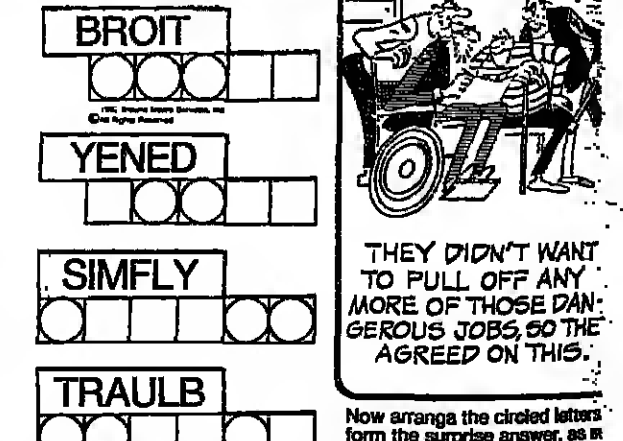
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harry



JUMBLE.

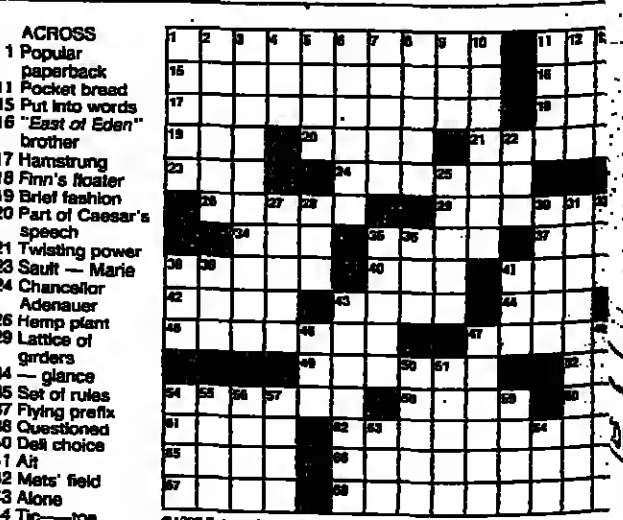
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A "BROIT" "YENED" "SIMPLY" "TRAULB"

Yesterday's Jumbles: SCOUR BRUIT DEBATE RITUAL
Answer: What they gave Dracula when he first arrived Hollywood — "BIT" PARTS

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel



ACROSS
1 Popular
11 Pocket bread
15 Put into words
16 "East of Eden"
17 Hamstring
18 Finn's floater
19 Brief fashion
20 Part of Caesar's speech
21 Twisting power
22 Sault — Marie
24 Chancellor
25 Adversus
26 Hemp plant
29 Lattice of orders
34 — glance
35 Set of rules
37 Flying prefix
38 Questioned
40 Deal choice
41 Alt
42 Met's field
43 Alone
44 Tie — toe
45 Harman's band
47 Country dance
48 Not as important
52 Central
54 Hun honcho
59 Walter illers
60 Yale student
61 Cafe au
62 Exceptionally talented one
65 Wheel rod
66 Missing the mark
67 Carpe
68 Clerical offices
9 Summer: Fr.
10 Bureaucratic paperwork
11 Young salmon
12 Desert storm country
13 Bean curd
14 Put into the pot
22 Kants work
25 Cowboy event
27 Col. Hemmell
28 Smith's group
29 No gentleman,
30 Twangy
31 It's out to friends
32 Before
33 Plant so.
36 Popeye's gal
37 Volcanic output
38 That girl
41 Give — try
43 Fog over
46 Sticky
47 Singer Cyndi
48 Pontius —
50 Shave blade
51 Make law
53 Has a meal
54 "When I
56 Scrabble pie
57 One of a set
59 Malign
63 Buy a pig
64 pig
65 Time of note
66 DeVito sitcom

Financial Markets

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank
Dollar in International Markets

	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 11/11/92	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 12/11/92
US Dollar	1.5251	1.5260
Japanese Yen	1.3854	1.5830
French Franc	1.4265	1.4268
German Mark	5.8505	5.3540**
Italian Lira	123.95	124.13
Spanish Peseta	1.2305	1.2424**

Interest Rates
Date: 12/11/92

	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
Dollar	5.12	5.05	3.65	5.61
Pound	7.57	6.93	6.54	6.18
Mark	6.57	5.81	5.37	7.61
Franc	6.43	5.56	5.57	6.00
Yen	9.37	9.31	9.06	8.50
Yen	9.30	9.28	9.29	9.02
Yen	10.00	10.00	9.50	9.00

Gold Rates
Date: 12/11/92

	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	332.55	0.50	Silver	3.00	0.80

Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 12/11/92

	Bid	Offer
US Dollar	0.657	0.689
Pound	1.0460	1.0518
Mark	0.4355	0.4357
Franc	0.4805	0.4827
Yen	0.1284	0.1290
Yen	0.5528	0.5556
Yen	0.3853	0.3872
Yen	0.1152	0.1158
Yen	0.0508	0.0517
Yen	0.02104	0.02115

Indices for Amman Financial Market
Date: 12/11/92

	10/11/92	Close	11/11/92	Close
Share	156.01		157.60	
Banking Sector	117.01		117.83	
Insurance Sector	172.18		172.52	
Industry Sector	205.17		208.86	
Services Sector	226.13		225.26	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

	10/11/92	Close	11/11/92	Close
Share	156.01		157.60	
Banking Sector	117.01		117.83	
Insurance Sector	172.18		172.52	
Industry Sector	205.17		208.86	
Services Sector	226.13		225.26	

DON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for gold world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession in London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

DON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for ng world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession in London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
Sterling	1.5415/25	U.S. dollar
U.S. dollar	1.2596/601	Canadian dollar
	1.5695/705	Deutsche marks
	1.7660/75	Dutch guilders
	1.4185/95	Swiss francs
	32.25/29	Belgian francs
	5.2950/3000	French francs
	1342/1344	Italian lire
	123.58/63	Japanese yen
	5.9375/475	Swedish crowns
	6.4250/350	Norwegian crowns
	6.0500/600	Danish crowns
ounce of gold	334.15/334.65	U.S. dollars

Chevron cuts 1,500 jobs

LOS ANGELES (R) — Chevron Corp. has said it will eliminate 1,500 jobs, including one thousand positions at its San Francisco headquarters, saving the giant oil company at least \$235 million a year. Industry analysts hailed Chevron's move, saying the cuts would boost the company's profits at a time of low oil prices and difficult business conditions.

"The key is, operating costs are going to be cut 30 per cent. That's pretty substantial," said George Gaspar, an oil industry analyst with Robert Baird Co. Analysts noted that the reductions were part of an extensive restructuring effort at Chevron, one of the largest U.S.-based international oil companies with a work force of about 55,000.

In September, Chevron said it would trade more than \$1 billion in U.S. oil and gas fields to Pennzoil Corp for Chevron stock.

Clinton promises not to send deficit soaring

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Clinton said Thursday he will put forward an economic recovery programme featuring business tax breaks and increased public works spending but promised not to send the deficit soaring.

Mr. Clinton, in his first news conference since being elected, mentioned public works spending and an investment tax credit as major pieces of a short-term programme he will send Congress immediately after his inauguration.

Mr. Clinton said many decisions remain to be made on the exact outlines of both proposals and whatever else he might include in his short-term recovery programme.

However, his comments shed light on a debate that has been swirling among his advisers on whether the economy was in such dire straits that he should abandon his modest stimulus programme in favour of a bolder approach even if it caused the deficit to balloon.

Mr. Clinton acknowledged that economists were split on the issue, but he said he wanted to steer a middle-ground between those favouring an all-out effort to get the deficit under control, a position embodied in the campaign by Ross Perot, and those favouring an all-out effort to accelerate growth.

Mr. Clinton indicated he would stick with his economic plan, which calls for moderate increases in public works spending and business tax breaks balanced against tax increases on the wealthy and foreign corporations, to

send a clear signal to the markets at home and abroad that we're going to bring this deficit down.

Mr. Clinton campaigned on a pledge to halve the deficit over the next four years. It is projected to hit a record \$300 billion this year in office.

"To ignore the deficit is a great mistake," he said. "So I'm going to pursue my course, which is increase investment, gradual but disciplined reduction of the deficit and we will see it works."

On the investment tax credit, Mr. Clinton cited the results of a study, done by a private economic consulting firm, which he said showed that providing businesses

with a 10 per cent credit for new equipment purchases could generate 500,000 jobs in the private sector in a year.

While Mr. Clinton gave every indication he was sticking by the recovery plan included in his campaign book, "putting people first," that plan offered only the bare outlines of a programme that will have to be filled in with much greater detail when Mr. Clinton submits his first budget to Congress.

One possible approach under review by Mr. Clinton's advisers would be to return 10 per cent of the cost of new equipment to a company in the form of reduced federal taxes. However, only

purchases above a certain amount should qualify to limit the drain on the treasury and reward only investments that otherwise would not have been made.

Mr. Clinton told reporters that his economic recovery programme would feature other items as well but he did not provide any other specifics. In his campaign book, he called for \$150 billion in new taxes over four years on the wealthy and foreign corporations.

While many economists have questioned whether Mr. Clinton's proposals would raise the amount of money, those measures would have to accompany the stimulus package to keep the deficit in line.

promised to set a more realistic rate later.

Russia's rouble, meanwhile, continued to slide in value Thursday, closing at 419 to the dollar on the Moscow foreign currency exchange. The previous low of 403 roubles was reached at the least session on Tuesday.

Mr. Nazarbayev, speaking to the Kazakh parliament in the republic lying between Russia and Central Asia, said he intended to introduce a new economic plan and blamed Russia for "pulling Kazakhstan into shock therapy at the world's expense."

"We have proved unable to form an economic community" in the commonwealth, he said. Interfax said Kazakh officials also were considering halting the republic's failing privatisation programme.

Earlier Thursday in Kiev, the visiting president of the Paris Club of creditor nations, Jean-Claude Trichet, said the group was willing to defer some of Ukraine's share of the \$75-\$80 billion former Soviet debt. He also urged Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma to work out differences with Russia, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Ukraine formally rejects Russian rouble

KIEV (AP) — President Leonid Kravchuk Thursday announced a long-awaited break from Russian economic control by declaring that the rouble would cease to be legal tender in Ukraine starting Friday.

Hours later, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was failing as an economic union and called for a more independent course for its resource-rich republic.

The announcements were the worst economic news in months for the commonwealth, which has been little more than a talking shop since succeeding the Soviet Union. They showed the republics were rebelling against Russian domination of the former Soviet economy.

Ukraine has tried to build up its own currency and break from the Moscow-run monetary system to give it freer reign over its economy — the second, largest in the former Soviet Union. But the move also could create new financial risks for Ukraine and other former Soviet republics.

The currency announcement was contained in a decree signed by Mr. Kravchuk last Saturday but released only Thursday by the official news agency Ukrainin-

form. Mr. Kravchuk later discussed the step in a national TV address.

It was the final step in Ukraine's long process of separating from the Russian rouble. The coupons were introduced early this year following the collapse of the Soviet Union in December.

Since then, the small past-coloured coupons have replaced roubles in nearly all daily transactions, and most ordinary Ukrainians may not feel the immediate effect of the decree. Coupons are given as salaries and are the only legal tender for stores, restaurants and tickets.

Russian roubles also are being replaced by national currencies or coupons in Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Azerbaijan. War-ravaged Tajikistan has said it wants to introduce its own currency.

Mr. Kravchuk's decree likely would make the Ukrainian coupon known as the karbovanets in Ukrainian — its fact currency. Ukraine originally planned to reintroduce its hryvnia next year, but has shelved the plan.

The decree said the Russian rouble would cease to be legal tender in Ukraine as of 12 a.m. Friday Moscow time (2100

GMT). It said all bank accounts in Russian roubles would be redesignated as Ukrainian coupons at a 1-to-1 ratio and could be converted into cash only in coupons.

The biggest impact would be felt by Ukrainian firms and organisations, which still had to reckon on their accounts in roubles. They also have had to use roubles in trade with Russia and other former Soviet republics.

The decree would sever the Ukrainian and Russian monetary systems and may force exporters and importers to buy coupons for trade in Ukraine, said Oleg Sinyegovsky, vice president of a leading Ukrainian commercial bank.

But few other details were known about the coupons, particularly how the government will set and maintain their value, and what will happen to roubles held by Ukrainian firms in Russian banks.

"The instructions on how to change roubles into coupons will come tomorrow," Mr. Sinyegovsky told the Associated Press.

Once coupon now is worth about two-thirds of a Russian rouble on the black market. The exchange rate would be set at 1-to-1 for three days and the Ukrainian National Bank has

promised to set a more realistic rate later.

Russia's rouble, meanwhile, continued to slide in value Thursday, closing at 419 to the dollar on the Moscow foreign currency exchange. The previous low of 403 roubles was reached at the least session on Tuesday.

Mr. Nazarbayev, speaking to the Kazakh parliament in the republic lying between Russia and Central Asia, said he intended to introduce a new economic plan and blamed Russia for "pulling Kazakhstan into shock therapy at the world's expense."

"We have proved unable to form an economic community" in the commonwealth, he said. Interfax said Kazakh officials also were considering halting the republic's failing privatisation programme.

Earlier Thursday in Kiev, the visiting president of the Paris Club of creditor nations, Jean-Claude Trichet, said the group was willing to defer some of Ukraine's share of the \$75-\$80 billion former Soviet debt. He also urged Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma to work out differences with Russia, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

British premier says 'traumatic period' for government at end

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major described his government's new package for growth as signalling the end of a "traumatic period" and said it would boost confidence in an economy mired in the longest recession for 60 years.

His embattled government Thursday cut interest rates to their lowest level since 1978, curbed pay rises and announced measures to boost the depressed car and housing markets.

But the London stock market slipped back Friday on disappointment that the government had not done more to boost the economy and trade unions attacked a 1.5 per cent ceiling on public sector pay rises.

The statement setting out spending for the financial year

starting April 1993 was the first detailed outline of strategy since the withdrawal of the pound from the European Community (ERM) two months ago.

After an upbeat meeting of ruling Conservative Party MPs on Thursday night, Mr. Major told reporters it would create growth and get people back to work.

"It has been a traumatic period over recent weeks. The policy is clearly in place — economic policy, social policy," Mr. Major said.

The government's credibility has been severely damaged since Britain's embarrassing exit from the ERM and a series of political crises which have seen Mr. Major's popularity plunge.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

(Finance Minister) Norman Lamont said Friday that all the conditions for a resumption of economic growth were now in place.

He told BBC radio in an interview that the £4 billion (£6 billion) package would "give a boost to confidence and a boost to growth."

"I have given a boost to investment in the private sector...I have controlled public spending...and thirdly I have given us the lowest interest rates since 1978, the lowest in the European Community," he pointed out.

"If those aren't three reasons to be confident I don't know what is," Mr. Lamont said.

The one percentage point cut in interest rates to seven per cent came into effect Friday.

It had already been factored into financial markets a day earlier and the Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading British shares was down 9.1 points at 2,717 in early trading Friday amid disappointment that Mr. Lamont's statement did not go far enough.

"The statement and the (rate)

cut are a step in the right direction but the bottom line is whether they are enough to boost confidence," one London trader said.

Trade unions said the ceiling on public sector pay rises was a blow to teachers, health and transport workers.

"Five million public sector workers are being told they must pay the price of the government's incompetence," said Trade Union Congress General Secretary Norman Willis.

The government is expecting cheering news on the inflation front, with October figures expected to show a fall in the annual rate to 3.4 per cent from 3.6 per cent.

That may dispel some of gloom created by Thursday's jobless total for October, showing a rise of 24,200 to 2.87 million, or 10.1 per cent of the workforce.

Mr. Lamont stuck to the Conservative government's tight policies on public spending, confirming an overall limit of £24.5 billion (£37.2 billion), a 4.5 per cent increase, for the year starting next April 5.

Mauritius expects economic growth to increase in 1992

PORT LOUIS (R) — Economic growth in the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius will increase in 1992 after a recovery in the sugar and tourism sectors, officials have said.

Gross domestic product growth of 6.4 per cent is expected in this calendar year compared with the 4.7 per cent growth of 1991, official planning figures forecast.

"The economy grew satisfactorily last year and 1992 promises to be relatively good," Economic Planning Minister Swalee Kaseenally told Reuters.

The government estimates sugar production will reach 660,000 tonnes in 1992 compared to 611,400 tonnes last year. The lower output in 1991 was blamed on drought. Most sugar is exported to European Community states.

Sugar exports in 1992 are expected to be worth Mauritius rupees 5.4 billion (\$358 million), slightly higher than last year's rupees 5.22 billion (\$346 million).

Over 330,000 tourists are expected to visit the idyllic island this year, earning rupees 4.4 billion (\$291 million) against the 300,670 arrivals and earnings of rupees 3.94 billion (\$261 million) in 1991.

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NUMISMATIC EXHIBITION (International Currency Exhibition)

Rare and recent banknote currency from the Middle East and other countries, coins and commemorative items and medals. Exhibition at Dar Al Bashir Gallery, Jerusalem Jewel Commercial Centre, Abdali, King Hussein Street. Starting Sat. Nov. 14-16 between 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information, call 623725 or 612421

Taiwan-China trade surges

TAIPEI (R) — Trade between China and Taiwan through Hong Kong surged 33 per cent from a year earlier to \$4.67 billion in the first eight months of 1992, the Board of Foreign Trade has said.

The island's exports to China climbed 38 per cent to \$3.92 billion while imports rose 12 per cent to \$741 million.

Trade will continue growing rapidly as increasing Taiwanese

investment in China, which now totals over \$4 billion, fuels purchases of machinery and components by factories on the mainland, the board said.

It urged local businessmen to exploit the China market through trade rather than direct investment, saying Taiwanese factories on the mainland could suffer if trade disputes between Washington and Beijing reappeared.

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Ceasefire holds in Sarajevo; fighting continues elsewhere

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian rivals fought in the northern part of the republic but honoured their latest truce in the besieged capital Sarajevo, where residents spent their quietest night in many months, Bosnian radio said Friday.

"Last night was completely quiet in Sarajevo. Our citizens have been waiting for such a night for a long time," the radio broadcaster said.

The latest truce, for the first time vouchered by the military commanders of warring Serbs, Muslims and Croats, went into effect Thursday at one minute after midnight.

"Is it (the truce) for real or will they attack us by surprise? Don't relax too much, it's not the time for that," the broadcaster said.

Some automatic weapons fire was heard around midnight, but it was not serious by local standards.

Bosnian rivals traded accusations of violating the truce but their charges could not be independently verified.

The Muslim government-controlled Bosnian radio said the ceasefire was not holding in northern Bosnia around the towns of Gracac, Srebrenica, Olovo, Breza, Brcko and others, where, it said, Serb forces were still attacking.

The Belgrade-based news agency, Tanjug, said Muslim artillery shelled the northern Bosnian town of Doboj and said Muslims were on an offensive on the fourth day running in eastern Bosnia around the towns of Foca, Gorazde and Tmova.

Bosnia's Muslim President Ali-

ja Izetbegovic accused Serb forces Thursday of blatantly violating the ceasefire by shelling the central Bosnian town of Travnik crowded with thousands of refugees.

Serb forces denied the charges and Tanjug said Croat and Muslim forces launched artillery attacks on Serb lines in the region Thursday morning and were repulsed.

Bosnian Serbs' leader Radovan Karadzic accused the Muslims and Croats of not being interested in peace, the Bosnian Serbs' News Agency (SRNA) reported Friday.

He warned of the possibility of another war between Serbia and Croatia and said the Yugoslav-Croatian agreement in Geneva was a "dead letter" because of what he said was a Croatian drive against Serb positions in southern Bosnia.

"The large violations of the ceasefire, first of all in the River Neretva Valley, shows that the Croatian side wants to exert pressure on the U.N. Security Council before its session Friday, in order to make a new anti-Serb decision," he said.

Frustrated by Bosnia's intractable civil war, the Security Council Friday opens a lengthy debate that may result in a resolution tightening sanctions and imposing a naval blockade against Yugoslavia.

Mr. Karadzic called on the international community to "intervene urgently with the same pressure on Croatia with threats of sanctions, because the hitherto existing policies of unilateral pressure led to the escalation of

the conflict." Bosnian radio and SRNA said representatives of the southern Bosnian Croats and Serbs with U.N. peacekeepers would meet in Stolac to discuss the implementation of the ceasefire and deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces.

Diplomats say the ceasefire might allow progress in talks between international mediators in Geneva and political leaders of the rival ethnic communities. Previous ceasefires were quickly broken and some have been completely ignored.

Frustrated by rampant smuggling of everything from gasoline to iron, the Security Council Thursday was considering enforcing its six-month-old embargo of Yugoslavia with a naval blockade.

A draft resolution before the 15-member Council says the blockade is one of several methods being considered to strengthen the embargo intended to punish Yugoslavia — consisting of Serbia and Montenegro — for fomenting war in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Council banned most trade with Yugoslavia on May 30. While the sanctions have hurt the weak Yugoslav economy, they could not cut off supplies.

Associated Press reporters have seen black marketeers hawking difficult-to-get gasoline coupons and cigarettes.

Customs officials in neighbouring countries have been taking bribes to let banned goods through the embargo. And Yugoslavs in motorboats regularly put up to ships from former Soviet republics that traverse Serbia on

the Danube River.

Under the Security Council resolutions, nations would be required "to halt all inward and outward maritime shipping in order to inspect and verify their cargoes and destinations." The resolution specifically mentions the Danube, where Romania and Bulgaria would have to inspect ships.

NATO said Thursday it would cut the naval force sent to monitor sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state from the Adriatic and that the Western European Union was expected to do the same.

Both organisations sent naval forces to the area in July. The warships have no powers to stop and search vessels, only to monitor their movements. Alliance diplomats say the mission has been heavily criticised for having achieved little.

A NATO spokesman said a meeting of ambassadors from the 16 alliance nations in Brussels Wednesday decided that the mission "could be carried out by a reduced monitoring force."

The spokesman said there would be "a corresponding decision" by the WEU, whose members are all in NATO, but declined to give further details on how many ships would be withdrawn and when they would return to port.

The exact number of ships on patrol in the Adriatic varies, but NATO has sent a force of eight frigates and destroyers, while the WEU has three or four vessels operating there.



CAPTURED TANK: A group of Abkhazi men examine a Georgian army tank that they had captured in the village of Eschera, in Georgia's rebel region of Abkhazia. Georgian and Russian officials are expected to visit the area in an effort to try to bring the conflict to an end (AFP photo)

Situation deteriorates in Angola

LUANDA (Agencies) — The situation in Angola deteriorated further Friday as state radio reported that UNITA rebels were advancing in the provinces and hunting down government supporters.

State radio said the provincial capital of northern Malanje province was virtually circled by UNITA troops who were advancing some 15 kilometres away.

"The provincial government called for help," the radio said.

It reported that UNITA was carrying out a door-to-door search for government supporters in central Bie province, which UNITA virtually controls.

There was no independent confirmation of the claims.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Marrack Goulding warned Thursday that time was running out to avert another civil war.

He ended a week-long visit aimed at consolidating a truce, saying UNITA and the MPLA government had only weeks to restart dialogue on consolidating a ceasefire and revive May 1991 peace accords that ended 16 years of civil war.

"There is not much time left," he told a news conference. "The country is in crisis and the peace process is seriously threatened."

The United Nations is due to pull out several hundred observers monitoring the peace accords by Nov. 30.

Mr. Goulding said it was up to the two foes to begin negotiating by then if they wanted the Security Council to agree to an enhanced role in the country.

Fighting has swept Angola since UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi disputed U.N.-monitored elections held in late

September and his forces began occupying more than half of the country in violation of the truce.

More than 1,000 people died last week in the capital Luanda when government forces and civilian militias went on a revenge rampage against UNITA members and the carnage de-railed negotiations under way, Mr. Goulding said.

Mr. Goulding, sent to Angola by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali on a last-ditch peace mission, said President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi told him they wanted peace but both attached conditions and there was deep distrust.

The one promising sign was that a shaky ceasefire was holding in some parts of the country, he said.

Many diplomats believe total war is inevitable after the Luanda battles in which a dozen top UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) officials — Mr. Savimbi's negotiating team — were killed or captured.

"I don't see any solution, it's a complete checkmate," said one Western diplomat.

The elections gave the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) a parliamentary majority although Mr. Dos Santos narrowly failed to win enough votes to avoid a run-off with Mr. Savimbi. Most people doubt a second round will ever be held.

Meanwhile, relaxing next to a giant harp-shaped bridge, government soldiers and police did not seem ready to fight the UNITA rebel troops only a stone's throw away.

But they vowed their enemies will never pass river defences that saved the Angolan capital from rebel troops on the eve of independence in 1975.

UNITA forces have advanced to some 40 kilometres north of Luanda. Diplomats and military experts say they are well-equipped and stronger than ever. "It seems we are on the road to war," government Gen. Higinio Camero said Wednesday in Luanda.

The Luanda fighting effectively decapitated UNITA's command structure, but that did not stop the formerly U.S.-backed rebels from flexing their military muscle. They seized two provincial capitals and reportedly closed on two others.

"They will never pass here," vowed Pedro Valentim, a police officer at Pangula's bridge over the Bengo River — the government's last defence north of Luanda.

"No one has ever gotten past these rivers," he said, pointing south towards the next river at Kifundongo, where the National Front for the Liberation of Angola was halted as it pushed towards Luanda just before Nov. 11, 1975, the day Angola gained independence from Portugal.

This time, it might be different. Western diplomats and military experts say UNITA still has up to 55,000 men in the field. They still have a U.S.-supplied Stinger missile, 120-mm mortars and a large stockpile of guns and ammunition.

Most government forces have been disbanded and the remaining 15,000 placed under a joint command by 1991 peace accords. UNITA withdrew from the joint army.

Burmese troops said poised to hit border camp

RANGOON (R) — More than 230 Burmese government troops and 160 insurgents have been killed in three months of fighting along the Thai-Burmese border, official media said.

A Reuters reporter on the border said government forces were poised to assault an important Karen insurgent base.

Guerrillas and civilians were fleeing across the Moie River into Thailand, he said.

In Rangoon, the Working Peoples Daily, voice of the ruling junta, said the army had launched new campaigns on Aug. 1 after the insurgents took advantage of a government ceasefire declared in April.

Army columns backed by air support recaptured southern areas last week after a series of clashes with Karen ethnic guerril-

las and dissident students, it said.

The single biggest action appeared to be the recapture of Hwepongla Camp in the eastern command. It was overrun by insurgents in early September and three officers and 44 soldiers were killed or went missing in the battle to retake it.

Total losses in the offensives up to Nov. 6 were 231 government troops, including four officers, and 167 insurgents, the newspaper said.

At Haulay village on the Thai side of the border, mortar barrages and machinegun fire could be heard Thursday around the Karen camp of Tawotha a few kilometres inside Burma.

About 600 Karen were based at the camp, lying about 120 kilometres south of their headquarters at Manerplaw.

A Karen officer told the Reuters reporter that 12 of his men had been killed in fighting there since last week.

Twenty bombs had landed in the camp that day, he said.

Civilians were already being evacuated, he said. As he spoke about 50 guerrillas crossed the Moie into Thailand.

One of them, a student, said he doubted the camp could be held. Many dissident students have fled to the border and teamed up with the Karen since troops crushed a pro-democracy uprising in Rangoon and other cities in 1988.

The Karen themselves, a largely Christian group in this mainly Buddhist country, have fought the Rangoon government almost since Burma's independence from Britain in 1948.

In April, the military called off its offensive against the Karen as it seemed on the verge of capturing Manerplaw.

Thursday's Working People's Daily said the guerrillas wrongly concluded that the government's offer for peace was a sign that it was in a tight corner.

"Their malicious intent was completely foiled by the military's fierce counter-offensives, it said.

Fighting is likely to increase as the dry season is now beginning. Several thousands of civilians from the ethnic minorities have already fled over the border.

Burmese troops have also crossed in pursuit of guerrillas, drawing protest from the Thai military, which is normally friendly with the junta.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.K. backs Japan plutonium shipment

TOKYO (R) — Britain fully supports Japan's controversial shipment of 1.7 tonnes of highly toxic plutonium from France, British Energy Minister Timothy Eggar said. "I made it clear to (Japan) that we are very much in support of this shipment," said Mr. Eggar, who is on an official visit. "We are also satisfied with the safety arrangements that have been taken, and we entirely understand that Japan needs to complete its nuclear fuel cycle," he added. Mr. Eggar said British Nuclear Fuel Plc (BNFL) was interested in such shipments, and that there were contracts signed 15 years ago for plutonium to be shipped to Japan from Britain. The Akatsuki Maru, the 3,800-tonne freighter carrying the plutonium, left the French port of Cherbourg Saturday and is now in the Atlantic with a Japanese coastguard escort.

France, Russia sign nuclear accords

PARIS (AP) — France and Russia signed a series of accords under which France will participate in destroying 90 per cent of Russia's nuclear weapons. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his Russian counterpart Andrei Kozyrev signed the agreements after more than a year of negotiations on the fate of Russia's weapons of mass destruction. French delegations, led by former Defence Minister Gerard Renon, made several trips to Moscow to determine how France could participate in demolishing Russian nuclear weapons. The United States and Britain will also take part in destroying the weapons. The difference with France's participation is that it will destroy the fissionable material in the nuclear weapons it scraps, whereas the United States stockpiles it. The two ministers also signed accords under which Russia will return French historical documents seized by the Nazis in 1940 and recovered by the Soviet army in 1945.

Pretoria backtracks on pledge to ANC

CAPE TOWN (R) — The South African government will not fence migrant-workers hostels implicated in township violence, government sources said. The decision, a concession to the mainly Zulu hostel dwellers, could jeopardise efforts to revive multi-party democracy talks with the African National Congress (ANC), which demanded the hostels be fenced. The ANC blames hostel dwellers for the escalating violence in black townships. The Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party is the ANC's main rival for the allegiance of black South Africans in talks on power sharing with the white government. An ANC official said moves to resume negotiations with the government later this month would collapse if Pretoria broke its promise to fence the hostels. The government sources told Reuters that opposition from the hostel dwellers made it impossible to implement the plan.

Belgian relief worker hurt in Angola

BRUSSELS (R) — The international aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said one of its aid workers had been seriously wounded in Angola. Brussels-based MSF said Belgian Pascal Andre had been attacked by a bandit in the central Angolan town of Huambo Tuesday night. It had no further details on the attack. An MSF spokesman said Andre was flown to the Namibian capital Windhoek after being treated in Huambo by a Russian surgeon. His condition was "very serious".

Slovaks to go on making, selling arms

PRAGUE (R) — The Slovak government has lifted limitations on arms production in Slovakia and will allow producers to continue selling their weapons, the Slovak premier was quoted as saying. Arms manufacturers will be able to sell to East European and Arab markets, Vladimir Meciar told Slovak Radio, according to the independent Czech daily Mlada Fronta Dnes. He said the Slovak government took the decision to help reduce unemployment further in Slovakia. The jobless rate in Slovakia in October was 10.4 per cent, roughly four times the unemployment in the western and richer Czech Republic. Slovak unemployment has been falling since January when it reached 12.74 per cent.

China has 4,000 political prisoners

PEKING (R) — China had imprisoned about 4,000 people for crimes of "counter-revolution" in its vast network of jails and labour camps by the end of 1991, police officials told an Australian human rights delegation. Senator Chris Schacht, leading the nine-member Australian group, said Thursday that officials from the Ministry of Public Security had disclosed the figure for political prisoners during talks. "The total number of people convicted and serving sentences for so-called counter-revolutionary crimes totals 4,000," Sen. Schacht told a news conference. "We've never previously received information of that size." Robin Munro, regional representative for the human rights group Asia Watch, also said he believed this was the first time China had given a precise official estimate of the size of its population of political prisoners.

Menchu's brother reports death threats

CHIMEL, Guatemala (AP) — The brother of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchu says he's received death threats since she was honoured last month for her work defending Guatemala's Indians. Fear also stalks other family members in the western highlands, where military and paramilitary groups still operate freely and violently against suspected leftists despite six years of civilian government. "Members of voluntary civil patrols have sent word they want to end the Menchu lineage and will start with the oldest surviving brother first," Nicolas Menchu, 43, told the Associated Press. "I fear for my life." Rightist security forces have targeted Guatemala's 5 million Indians on suspicion of harbouring guerrilla sympathies. Nicolas Menchu said he was in the hamlet of La Danta on Oct. 29 on his way to farm a small family plot in Chimel when a group of men armed with machetes and guns approached him. Mr. Menchu said the men were patrol commanders and they accused his sister of being a guerrilla and threatened to kill him if he returned to the area.

Inuit back plan for own region

IQALUIT, Northwest Territories (AP) — Inuit in the eastern Arctic have overwhelmingly approved the creation of Canada's third territory, officials announced Thursday. Sixty-nine per cent of those voting backed a deal which gives the Inuit a form of self-government and clear title to an area about half the size of Alberta. The new region, carved out of the Northwest Territories, will be called Nunavut, which means "our land" in Inuktitut, the Inuit language. Election officials reported that 80 per cent of the 9,648 eligible Inuit turned out for the Nov. 3 referendum, which passed even though those who did not cast ballots were counted as no votes. The results of the vote were released Thursday at a new conference.

Japan's political crisis deepens

TOKYO (R) — Japan's political crisis has deepened after the ruling party, battling to shield its leaders from scandal, fell out, demanding that opposition figures testify on their own links to mobsters and shady schemes.

Parliamentary business, in particular debate on a crucial economic package, halted this week and showed no sign of resuming as ruling and opposition parties drew battle lines over the wide-ranging Sagawa money-and-

gangsters scandal.

The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), indignant over opposition demands that 10 LDP veterans testify about their role in the Sagawa scam, decided to counter-attack.

They came up with their own list of 11 opposition members they said should appear to answer to allegations ranging from tax evasion to links to Sagawa.

After suffering a day of scornful attacks, some from within

their own party, LDP elders pared down the list to five, eliminating in the process anyone who might have been connected to Sagawa.

"LDP policymakers are lost, with no sense of direction or purpose," said a Socialist Party official.

"We won't bow to their demands, they are just aimed at diverting attention away from the LDP's links to the Sagawa scandal."

Washington prepares for Hollywood style inaugural events for Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — A combination of Hollywood style and relaxed, down-home celebration will set the tone for the inauguration of President-Elect Bill Clinton.

Workers at the U.S. Capitol began building platforms Thursday for the inaugural ceremony, to be held at the West Front of the Capitol on Jan. 20.

Sen. Wendell Ford of Kentucky, the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, said he expects the largest crowd ever at such an event.

"I think it's been 12 years of anxiety, and the people want to come out to see their new president," Sen. Ford said at a news conference outside the Capitol.

He said Congress has appropriated \$906,000 for the ceremony at the Capitol, but he hopes to spend less. Mr. Bush's inauguration in 1989 cost \$746,000, but was smaller than what's expected this time, Sen. Ford said. About 150,000 people attended that ceremony.

For the upcoming ceremony, tickets will be printed for 250,000 people 37,000 seated, the rest standing in front of the platform. Some 75,000 to 80,000 of the tickets will be distributed for standing-room areas on the mall.

In keeping with the down-to-earth style of the new administration - and the environmental activism of Vice President-Elect Al Gore - invitations to the Capitol ceremony will be printed on 60 per cent recycled paper.

Meanwhile a leading Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee pledged support Thursday to President-Elect Clinton in efforts to exercise U.S. leadership in world affairs.

Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana said Mr. Clinton's victory in the election freed the president-elect from the need to concentrate so heavily on domestic affairs as he had to do during the campaign.

"My hope would be very early affirm... that the position of his administration will be for a continuing, certain presence of the United States in Europe," he said.

"Not in the same form and in the same locations were our troops are now located and clearly in close consultation with our colleagues in NATO, but nevertheless (with the) certainty that we are a partner in that endeavour to stay. I am very hopeful that declaration will come soon and will come with certainty and clarity. It is so important

fundamentally."

Sen. Lugar said the United States and partners in Europe must soon decide on a decisive solution to the conflicts in the republics of former Yugoslavia.

"The facts of life are that without there being an American presence, and I would say American leadership in this situation, a solution is not going to occur, whether with the Europeans, or with the Security Council of the United Nations, or in any other forum..." Sen. Lugar said.

"The world wants U.S. leadership. The thing doesn't work without U.S. leadership and in a very strange way for a year we have not had much U.S. leadership..."

He argued that America's own prosperity will be at risk unless it takes the lead to bring security in which trade, tourism, and business exchanges can flourish.

"As an American of opposite political faith to Gov. Clinton, I will cheer him on in every way that he wishes to seize the initiative and take important international leadership from the beginning."

Sen. Lugar spoke at a meeting sponsored by Europe, a magazine published by the delegations of the European Community in Washington.

Church Of

says yes to priests

LONDON (AP) — Of England has women as priests, not silencing the of a minority in pews. It's such a Rev. Jules Cave woman deacon who fully outside the central London announced. "It been emotionally this. Now we're preaching the Good Cave Bergquist, Trinity College. Some opponents leave the church, Rome, Vatican's grave obstacle." 16th-century spin man Catholics. "Obviously there who will leave an sad about that." Canterbury Geor after the vote, a listen to one another can work together day-long debate synod, the legal necessary two- from bishops, clergy. A switch of among lay deleg blocked the path for the church's deacons.

Japan pres accepts ne prince's lo

TOKYO (R) — agreed to extend nine-month-old g Crown Prince Na search for a bi tary ban, introduce Naruhito passed is in response to the Imperial Ho which rules palac rod of iron. Th wants to protect privacy of wome considered prom and smooth the heir to Japan's t themum throne. A press avid for the gossip thus finds the home front, the freedom of B ers in their frank, s intrusive, coverag royals. Princes N son of Emperor grandson of war Hirohito, became and heir to the th to's death on Jan Oxford-educated, studied mediae transport and coo ford University — frankly of his view The prince, standi (5ft 3 1/2 in) tall, s in choosing a pa place little importa al height, family background. He w married by the t years later, the s consort goes on, c the fact that in Japanese women's life in the stuffy o anyone would h thoughts," he s thought. "The palac place to enter be ways it is so bac

5 French stu caught in C Tunnel

LONDON (AP) — students were caught unauthorised into Channel Tunnel in and France, and they did it on a ber entered the French tunnel through ven Wearing overalls a video camera, apprehended in the of the 31-mile (50-k nel eight hours late escorted to the Bri tunnel, question aboard a ferry for F police said, wher charges of breaking "When initially d young men claimer crew working for Eurotunnel," acco contractor, Trans "After close ques admitted to being dents who had made rised crossing for i struction on the 1987, and workes neath the English 1990. The \$14.7 b scheduled to open next summer.